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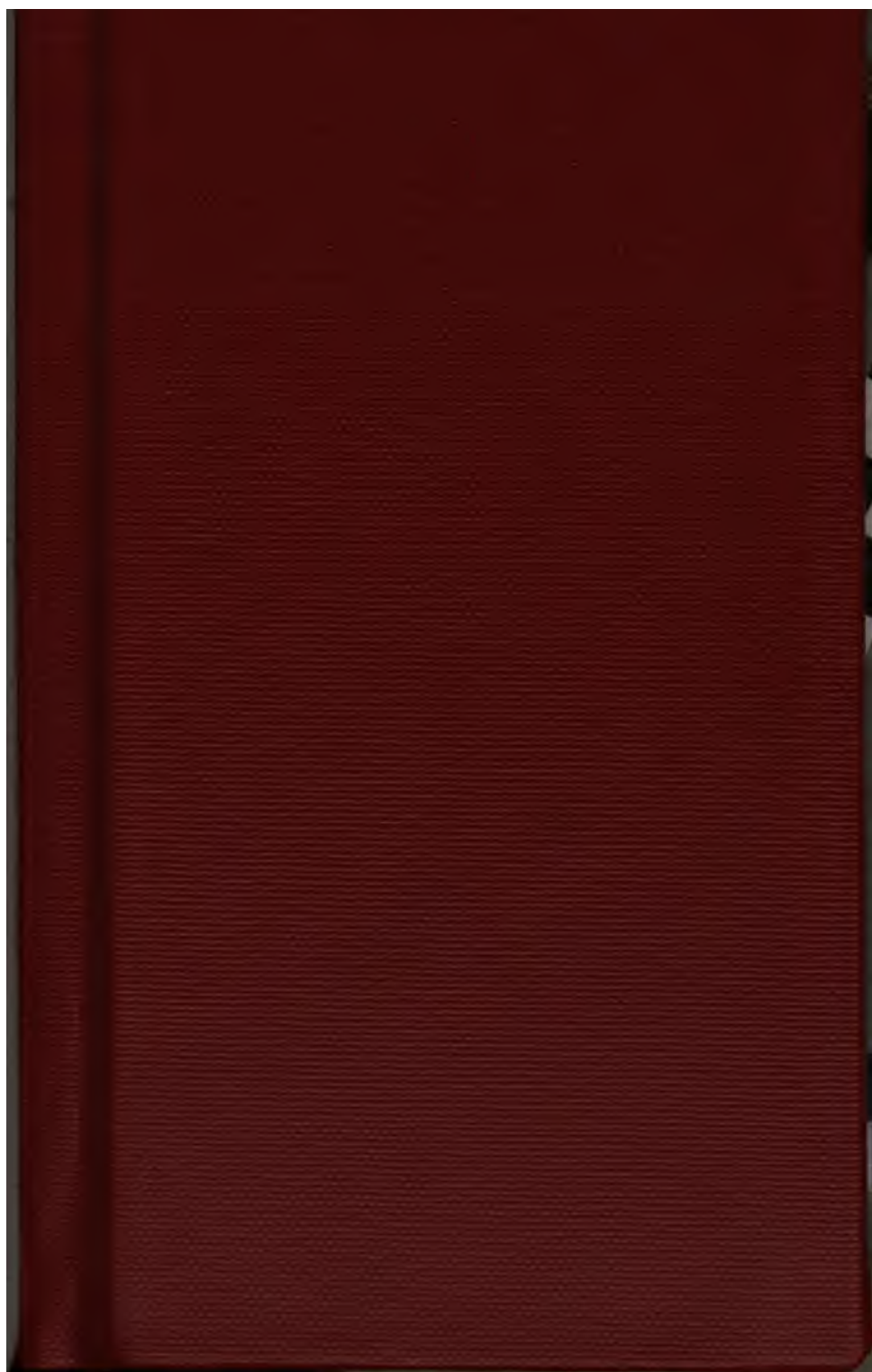
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K R I M - G I R A I,

KHAN OF THE CRIMEA.



K R I M - G I R A I,

KHAN OF THE CRIMEA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF THEODORE MUNDT,

BY

THE HON. WILLIAM G. C. ELIOT.



LONDON:

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

I HAVE translated this little work in the hope that an English version of it will be acceptable to the English public.

Until lately indeed few might have cared to read it. The Crimea was, so to speak, an unknown land. But now the names of its towns and its rivers, its heights and its plains, have become familiar in our mouths as household words ; and many will, I think, be interested by a description of the country as it appeared in 1761 to the envoy of Frederick the Great, and by an account of the Tartar sovereign, Krim-Girai.

I know that this translation has many defects, but I believe that it renders faithfully, though not literally, the meaning of the original.

W. G. C. ELIOT.

Berlin, Oct. 26, 1855.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THE history of the Crimea, as depicted in the following historical narrative of the great Khan's life, shows in a remarkable manner how natural and unavoidable a struggle between that country and Russia appeared even in former times.

It had already occurred to Frederick the Great to form in the Crimea a centre of action against the power of Russia, and he had been encouraged in this line of conduct by the admiration expressed for him by Krim-Girai, the wonderful son of nature, who, irresistibly attracted by the charms of Western civilisation, sent an embassy to express his feelings to the Prussian monarch.

This event took place at one of the most critical periods of the Seven Years' War, and Frederick considered the turn which the

Tartars would give to affairs sufficiently important to warrant his sending a young officer, the Baron Alexander von Golz, to the Crimea on a mission to Krim-Girai.

Frederick not only wished to excite the powerful Khan to invade Russia with his savage hordes, but also hoped by these means to induce the Porte, which had hitherto been opposed to entering into alliance with Prussia, to commence active hostilities against Russia.

The Prussian policy upon this occasion, which was the real beginning of the Eastern complications, and in which Prussia, with a due sense of her newly-acquired position in Europe, took a sufficiently active part, seems to have been somewhat ambiguous; for while Frederick the Great, harassed by the events of the Seven Years' War, was, with his far-seeing policy, desirous of kindling war in that quarter between Russia and the Porte, he not long afterwards, in order to produce a counter-action against Austria, thought it necessary to introduce Russian influence into Germany, as I have endeavoured to show more at large

in my work entitled 'The Struggle for the Black Sea.'

The light which this episode throws upon the affairs of Europe, entangled as they are with those of the East, is of itself sufficient to justify this view.

In addition to many other reliable sources, I have drawn from the authentic accounts of the Prussian Lieutenant Goltz's diplomatic mission to the Crimea.

The lively Memoirs of the French Baron Tott have rendered good service for the second part of this narrative. He accompanied the great Krim-Girai in that terrible campaign in New Servia with which the Tartar Khan deemed it necessary, having been named Commander-in-chief by the Porte, to commence hostilities against Russia — a war which Sultan Mustapha III. could only be induced to undertake in consequence of his grief for the fate of Poland.

May these retrospective glances meet with a favourable reception from the reader, as well on account of their intrinsic interest as of the relation they bear to the present war.

CONTENTS.

PART I.

CHAPTER I.

KRIM-GIRAI AN ALLY OF FREDERICK THE GREAT.

PAGE

Arrival at Strehlen of Embassy from Krim-Girai, Khan of Tartary — A barber-ambassador — Rise and progress of the Khan — M. de Rexin — Boskamp — Frederick's doubts	3
--	---

CHAPTER II.

THE PRUSSIAN LIEUTENANT IN THE CRIMEA.

Departure of the ambassador, and mission from Frederick to the Khan — Frederick's policy — Splendid present — Illness of Frederick's agent on his journey — Salt lakes — Perekop — Military works — Scenery of the Crimea — Simpheropol — Road to Bakschi-Serai . . .	14
---	----

CHAPTER III.

ARRIVAL AT BAKSCHI-SERAI.

The Alma — Bakschi-Serai — Boskamp: his hospitality and advice — Golz assumes the character of a horse-dealer — Re-appearance of the barber	29
---	----

CHAPTER IV.

KRIM-GIRAI, KHAN OF THE TARTARS.

PAGE

Procession to the palace — Description of the interior —	
Audience of the Khan — Friendly dismissal of the envoy	
— Private audience appointed	39

CHAPTER V.

THE PALACE OF THE KHANS.

Interior of the palace — The harem — Splendid panorama	
— Burial-ground of the Khans — Return of the procession	52

CHAPTER VI.

ALLIANCE BETWEEN PRUSSIA AND THE CRIMEA.

Private audience of the Khan — His evasion — Want of money — Krim-Girai an alchemist — Disappointment of Golz — Crafty diplomacy of the Khan — His request for a Prussian physician — Despatch of Golz to Frederick, announcing the Khan's determination to invade Russia	60
---	----

CHAPTER VII.

TARTAR DIPLOMACY.

Arrival of new presents from Frederick — Golz solicits another audience — Verbal answer of the Khan — Return of the Court interpreter from Breslau — Presentation of gifts — Procrastination of the Khan — Obtains additional subsidies — Dissensions between Golz and Boskamp — The Khan requests Golz to retire into Moldavia	74
---	----

CONTENTS.

xiii

CHAPTER VIII.

PAGE

A TARTAR GIRL.

Beautiful Tartar girl — Intrigues of Boskamp — Golz obtains an audience of leave, with a confirmation of the Khan's promises — Sets out for Jassy — Splendid scenery	84
--	----

CHAPTER IX.

THE CZAR PETER III.

Golz arrives at Jassy — Death of the Empress Elizabeth Petrowna, and accession of Peter III. — Truce between Russia and Prussia — Golz receives fresh instructions — New complications — Golz raises a corps of Albanians .	90
---	----

CHAPTER X.

THE FOUR GUARANTEED POINTS.

Krim-Girai takes the field, and is joined by Golz — Audience of the Khan — Additional subsidies — Discussion of political questions avoided by the Khan — Forward movement of his camp — Decides on taking the road to Hungary	96
--	----

CHAPTER XI.

CAMP AT KAWSCHANY.

Change of opinion at Constantinople — Influence of the French ambassador — Krim-Girai quarrels with Boskamp — Seineb taken from Boskamp by the Khan's orders — Boskamp commanded to quit the Khan's territory — Departure of the Prussian envoys — End of the mission	106
---	-----

PART II.

WAR WITH RUSSIA.

CHAPTER I.

PAGE

THE VIEWS OF SULTAN MUSTAPHA CONCERNING POLAND.

Intrigues at Constantinople against Krim-Girai — Deprived of his dignity — Raises the country for his protection — Leaves the palace — New complications at the Turkish capital — Death of Augustus III., King of Poland, and election of Poniatowski — Civil war in that country — Russian invasion — Boskamp sent by Poniatowski to Constantinople — The Sultan prepares for war . . . 121

CHAPTER II.

DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST RUSSIA BY THE PORTE.

Complicated diplomatic relations — Dismissal of the Grand Vizier, and appointment of Hamsa Pacha — Obreskoff, the Russian ambassador, insulted — The Porte declares war — Obreskoff sent to the Seven Towers . . . 129

CHAPTER III.

KRIM-GIRAI COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AGAINST THE RUSSIANS.

Krim-Girai recalled from exile — Re-ascends the throne of the Crimea — Consulted by the Sultan, and named commander-in-chief — Baron de Tott — Plan of the campaign 137

CONTENTS.

xv

CHAPTER I.V.

PAGE

THE MARCH INTO NEW SERVIA.

Forced march to the Polish frontier — Hypochondriac melancholy of the Khan — Philosophical discussions with the Baron de Tott — Krim-Girai reviews his troops — Encamps unwittingly on the frozen surface of a lake — Suicide of Turkish soldiers — Plan of the campaign — Turkish cavalry lost under the ice — Courageous feats of an Ignaz Cossack	149
---	------------

CHAPTER V.

ADVENTURES OF THE CAMPAIGN.

Tartar devastations — Sufferings of the Turkish troops — Conduct of Turks and Tartars to prisoners contrasted — Stratagem of the Khan — Cowardice of the Spahis, and bravery of the Ignaz Cossacks — Army reaches the Polish frontier — Severe punishment of a plunderer — Partition of booty	161
--	------------

CHAPTER VI.

THE RETURN.

Krim-Girai's grief at his own losses and the horrors of the war — Orders a retreat — Returns to Kawschany — Illness of the Khan — Tott suspects Siropolo, the physician — Tott's fears ridiculed by Krim-Girai	181
---	------------

CHAPTER VII.

PAGE

DEATH OF KRIM-GIRAI.

Increasing illness of the Khan — Sends for Tott — Grief of the harem — Krim-Girai's parting with Tott — Death of the Khan — Despair of the Court and Government — The funeral — Death of Seineb	187
--	-----

K R I M - G I R A I,

KHAN OF THE CRIMEA.



PART I.

CHAPTER I.

KRIM-GIRAI AN ALLY OF FREDERICK THE GREAT.

Arrival at Strehlen of Embassy from Krim-Girai, Khan of Tartary — A barber-ambassador — Rise and progress of the Khan — M. de Rexin — Boskamp — Frederick's doubts.

IN the month of October, 1761, when Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, was encamped at Strehlen, surrounded on every side by increasing difficulties and embarrassments, it was suddenly reported in the camp that an embassy from the Khan of Tartary had arrived in the neighbourhood for the purpose of offering assistance, which would be most acceptable to the King in his present position.

There soon appeared in the camp a long procession, consisting of persons fantastically dressed in Oriental costumes. They were received by one of the King's aides-de-camp, and, at their own request, made known by

the interpreter who accompanied them, conducted to the farm-house at Woiselnitz, where Frederick was residing.

His Majesty, who had just had reason to deplore the defeat of Scheidnitz, and had also received intelligence of the siege of Colberg, a town in Pomerania, by the Russians, was in that frame of mind when every fresh-appearing ray of light seems to be a pledge of a brighter future, and is followed with confidence and ardour.

With feelings thus favourably disposed, the King gazed on the castaned embassy, whose foreign and strange appearance provoked the satirical smiles of the surrounding generals.

He watched the strangers earnestly, and, with the most friendly welcome, invited the man who stood in advance, and who seemed, by his special magnificence, to be the envoy, to declare the object of his mission.

How astonished was Frederick when the Ambassador from the Crimea began in highly florid terms, faithfully rendered by the interpreter, to express the good wishes and salu-

tations of his sovereign, the great and wise Krim-Girai, Khan of the Crimea and of all European Tartars! He at the same time announced his own name and rank, as also his diplomatic quality.

His name, he said, was Mustapha Aga; and he frankly confessed with pride that he was the Khan's barber, and that it was in this important post at the Court of Bakschi-Serai that he had gained that confidence to which he owed his selection for the mission to the Hero-King of Prussia, the object of the Khan's greatest admiration and veneration.

A sunny gleam of that humour whose charm surpassed even that of his master spirit, and which so often in happier days played around the King's countenance, now deeply furrowed by the late events of the war, once more appeared. Resisting all temptation to indulge in the jest which hovered on his lips, he turned to his generals and gravely remarked that there was no cause for astonishment at seeing a barber act as diplomatist, since there was no nobility or personal rank among

Eastern nations, and the man who shaved his master might easily be found worthy to possess his confidence and represent him in the most important affairs.*

In the meanwhile Mustapha Aga had taken from an attendant a document signed with the great seal, and, kneeling before the monarch, had presented it to him.

Frederick received it graciously, and unfolded it with curiosity. It was the credentials. From this document the King learned the nature of the mission. He found himself overwhelmed with compliments, and honoured with a formal offer, conveyed in language so figurative as to call forth a smile, of a Tartaro-Prussian alliance. For a pecuniary consideration to be subsequently fixed, Krim-Girai proposed to place sixteen thousand Tartars at the King's disposal.

The King appeared much pleased with these proposals, and expressed to the barber, who with intelligent and piercing glances watched every turn of his countenance, the assurance

* Frédéric le Grand, *Histoire de la Guerre de Sept Ans* (*Œuvres*, v. 149).

of his acceptance of them, and the gratitude he felt towards Krim-Girai, the glorious and heroic occupant of a barbaric throne, who had already given so many proofs of an enlightened mind, had devoted himself to great undertakings, and had shown himself anxious for the welfare of the West.

For the barber's sovereign was that same Krim-Girai who had in 1750, while only Seraskier of the Budschiak Tartars, sent an embassy to Berlin to express the friendship and admiration with which the son of nature, in the distant unknown steppes of the Crimea, felt his heart beat for the Prussian hero, who was fighting against the half of Europe.

Since that time he had been raised to the throne by the rebellious tribe of the Noghai Tartars, and been made Khan of the Crimea. He now held a prominent place in the far-seeing calculations of Frederick, who desired to raise up as many powers as he could against his enemy. When the King, in the year 1755, caused renewed attempts to be made at Constantinople to conclude a treaty

of alliance between Turkey and Prussia, which had already been proposed, he charged his envoy to turn his attention to that wonderful Tauric Peninsula, and to inquire into the real opinions of his admired Krim-Girai.

The real name of this envoy, who had formerly been a clerk at Breslau, was Hauden, but he had assumed the name of Rexin on entering the diplomatic service.

At Constantinople M. de Rexin had made the acquaintance of a ruined Dutch student of theology, Boskamp by name, who from a love of adventure had exchanged the university for the rank of Cornet in the "Spleny" Austrian Hussars. Having soon left this corps, he resolved to try his luck at Old Stamboul, where he was first employed as spy and collector of daily gossip by the English Ambassador, Porter.

M. de Rexin, to whom he was recommended at the English Embassy, took him into his service in order to send him as a courier to the King, then in Silesia, with the preliminary articles of a treaty about to be signed between Prussia and the Porte.

At that place he arrived in the costume of a Turk, adopted to attract attention ; he wore it with dignity, and played his part with undeniable adroitness.*

The King on this occasion learned the value of his services, and upon his return to Constantinople, at M. de Rexin's suggestion, willingly named him his agent at Bakschi-Serai, the Court of the clever, enterprising Tartar Khan. The mission of the trusty barber was the first effect of Boskamp's activity in the Crimea, working on the anti-Russian feeling of the Khan.

Frederick, notwithstanding the great pleasure with which he had heard the Khan's letter translated by Mustapha Aga, suddenly appeared, from the expression which clouded his brow, to be perplexed with doubts about the mission.

These doubts might perhaps have arisen in the King's mind, already disturbed and

* Compare 'Nachrichten über die Gesandtschaftsreise des Lieutenant von der Goltz zu dem Tata Khan' with 'Denkwürdigkeiten für die Kriegskunst und Kriegsgeschichte.' Berlin. 1819. Heft 6, S. 111.

harassed in various ways by the events of the last few years, from the certainly strange circumstance that the diplomatic barber suddenly showed himself master of the German language.

This was a display which his Tartaric Majesty's barber thought advisable for two reasons. In the first place, he wished to show as a diplomatist, that he spoke various languages; and in the second place, to prove himself better acquainted with the idiom of the Turkish Court (in which the Khan's letter was written), and with the corresponding German phraseology, than the common run of interpreters are.

The talkative vanity characteristic of his real profession came even more into play, and he now added a few German phrases with tolerable fluency, in order to show the King that he could hold a conversation in that language.

The King knit his brow, and regarded him for a moment silently, with a look of doubt. Every kind of conjecture floated through his mind, and a peculiar confusion seemed for a moment to obscure his lofty and clear compre-

hension. He felt as if he only saw masks before him, who had been suddenly thrust into his presence by a stratagem of his enemies for the purpose of entangling him by their treacherous wiles.

This mistrust accorded with the impression which the theatrical appearance of the barber and his suite had at first made on him; and he bethought himself of the possibility of his inventive enemies having craftily devised this comedy in order to fathom his ulterior views, and to procure from himself information concerning his intentions of exciting the Turks to make war on Russia, which he thought might have been guessed by the latter power.

After a pause the King asked Mustapha, who had not ceased speaking German, where he had attained that readiness so remarkable in a native of the Tartaric empire.

Mustapha smiled with an uncommonly pleased and arch expression of countenance, and appeared to be well disposed to relate the adventures of his whole life to the King—how he had been taken prisoner as a boy by

the Russians, as far back as the storming of Oczakow, and how the Grand Duke, afterwards Peter III., had sent him to Holstein, where he had learned German; but that not being able to resist his desire of revisiting his native country, he had found an opportunity to make his escape in a ship, on board of which the captain received him out of compassion.

The King surveyed him with his large piercing eyes, and gave orders that suitable quarters should be prepared in the camp, worthy of the ambassador of the great Khan, upon whose friendship and assistance he set the highest value.

He then called the two captains Golz and Cocceji, and the young lieutenant Golz, who had for a short time been in especial favour with the King, and charged them, in a long and confidential conversation, alternately to devote their attention and society to the Tartar ambassador, and to make themselves as agreeable as possible to him, but at the same time to watch him most closely, and to endeavour to fathom more deeply the real object of his mission.

Then the King commanded that presents should be prepared, as rich and magnificent as could possibly be procured in the midst of a camp, for Krim-Girai, and should be given to the diplomatic barber on his departure, with others for himself.

CHAPTER II.

THE PRUSSIAN LIEUTENANT IN THE CRIMEA.

Departure of the ambassador, and mission from Frederick to the Khan — Frederick's policy — Splendid present — Illness of Frederick's agent on his journey — Salt lakes — Perekop — Military works — Scenery of the Crimea — Simpheropol — Road to Bakschi-Serai.

KRIM-GIRAI's barber and envoy, having spent some days in the camp at Strehlen in order to repose himself after his long journey and to satisfy his ardent curiosity with respect to Prussian military matters, considered that it was time to request his dismissal from the King. He accordingly obtained an audience of leave, at which his Majesty renewed his most friendly and grateful acceptance of the offers of assistance made by the Khan.

But Mustapha Aga was not to return alone to the court of Bakschi-Serai; the King charged the young Lieutenant Golz to accom-

pany him to the Crimea, to assure the Khan that the King of Prussia most sincerely reciprocated his expressions of amity, and also, after having given him information on the warlike state of affairs in Europe, to concert with him the next military operations.

This extraordinary mission from the Crimea, however singular and suspicious it might be at this critical period, had at any rate turned the King's attention more decidedly to that quarter.

The old Tauric Chersonese, surrounded by the brightest halo of ancient mythology and poetry, was, in the mind of the King, bent as it was continually on thoughts of war, a new field for the boldest plans and speculations.

The King's project was to induce the enterprising Khan with his Tartar hordes to make a descent on Russia, there to cause embarrassments from which Frederick thought he might expect far-spreading results.

The King hoped in this way to succeed in drawing the Porte, which had hitherto shown much repugnance to a real military and political alliance with Prussia, into actual hostilities

against Russia; for, as soon as the Khan had struck the first blow, and thereby endangered the safety of the Crimea, no one at Constantinople would hesitate to go to his assistance.

Frederick calculated on being able to cause a counter-action sufficiently powerful to force the Russians to retire from Pomerania, and to save the Electorate of Brandenburg from the threatening dangers to which it had for a long time been exposed.

He would however have preferred seeing the sixteen thousand Tartars, offered to him by Krim-Girai, employed in the invasion of Hungary, as the Empress Maria Theresa would thus be compelled to defend it with a stronger force than she had hitherto required, and the Austrian army, against which the Prussians would have to contend in the spring, would necessarily by these means be reduced one half.*

Another proposal of the King's was, that Krim-Girai should lend him an extra auxili-

* Frédéric le Grand, *Histoire de la Guerre de Sept Ans* (Œuvres, v. 150). *Denkwürdigkeiten für die Kriegskunst und Kriegsgeschichte*, Heft 6, S. 113.

ary corps of from six to eight thousand Tartars, to be placed under the command of Lieutenant Golz, who, immediately on the commencement of hostilities between Russia and the Tartars, was to proceed through Poland along the foot of the Carpathian Mountains as far as Kosel, where with these barbarian troops he was to arrive by the end of March.

Baron Alexander Golz was only in his twenty-second year when this important mission, touching the interests of Europe in the most decisive points, was intrusted to him by Frederick the Great.

The young man, highly gifted with energy and sound judgment, undertook this adventure-like commission with the enthusiasm naturally excited by the magnitude of its interest.

The King intrusted to him at the same time a magnificent snuff-box adorned with diamonds, which he was to deliver in person to the Khan, and furnished him with a cypher to be used in communicating intelligence from the Crimea and the court of Krim-Girai.

The King, on his departure, charged him

more especially to be completely on his guard during the journey, and to watch narrowly in every respect the demeanour of that strange diplomatist, Mustapha Aga.

Thus instructed and warned, Golz, in high spirits and full of youthful ardour, started on his journey in company with Mustapha Aga, who could not sufficiently appreciate the honour of taking back a Prussian officer, and whose peculiar good humour and talkativeness certainly rendered him a first-rate companion on the long and difficult journey to the Tauric Peninsula.

The travellers accomplished their journey from Breslau, through Poland, by the Carpathian Mountains, and had without any adventures passed Jassy, and reached the town of Bender on the Dniester, when Golz had suddenly so violent an attack of fever, that he was forced to declare his inability to proceed.

The great hardships of the unusually rapid journey, joined to the influence of the climate and season, had struck down the more than commonly strong youth, and affected him in the most dangerous manner.

He was forced to remain under the care of his servant without further help, and even without medical advice, in a wretched inn (the only one of which Bender could boast), for Mustapha Aga declared it to be most advisable that he should hasten onwards to inform the Khan that an envoy from the King of Prussia was on his way, but was detained on the road by the misfortune which had befallen him.

The compassionate barber, however, did not fail to leave behind him strict medical instructions, and a potion composed of sundry unknown ingredients, which he mixed for the benefit of his diplomatic colleague.

But Golz preferred trusting to his good constitution and his youth rather than to the prescription of his new Tartar friend, though he assured him that it always successfully repelled the feverish attacks of his sovereign lord the Khan.

Golz was obliged to keep his bed for a fortnight, and to remain in the most comfortless destitution in a low narrow room, in which it seemed impossible to breathe, much less to

get well; but one morning he arose from his sick bed with the delightful sensation of fully renovated health.

Soon his attention was attracted by the arrival of a handsome sledge, with a tent-like covering, which drove up to the door of the inn.

A stalwart Tartar, who had announced his arrival by cracking his whip, swung himself down adroitly from his seat, pushed back from over his eyes the turban-like fur-cap which he wore, and examined with dreamy curiosity the house before which he had stopped. He entered into conversation with the landlord, who went out to receive him; and Golz, who observed them from the window above, saw by their gestures that they were talking about him.

Before long the host, who was able to fill the office of interpreter, came to his room, and in the most respectful manner informed him that the Khan of the Crimea had placed his sledge at his disposal to convey him to his Court at Bakschi-Serai, as soon as he should be able and willing to avail himself of it.

Golz declared himself ready to start immediately, and in the full enjoyment of his newly acquired strength gave orders for the necessary preparations to be made.

It was a lovely winter's day, and the snow on the fields and mountains glistened in the bright sunshine.

The adventurous journey could not have been undertaken under more favourable circumstances, and Golz with a smile of satisfaction threw himself into the roomy sledge, while the Tartar driver, who had first reverentially bowed himself to the ground, endeavoured to prepare for him the warmest and most agreeable position.

The good-humoured looking Tartar then stood awhile, stroking his long moustaches and lost in admiration of his fellow-traveller's appearance, until, summoned by the somewhat impatient glance of Golz, he seized his whip and resumed his seat.

Golz remarked that his driver was well armed, and particularly that he carried in the broad girdle fastened round his waist a

dagger-like knife, which seemed to be intended for defence.

This induced the young Lieutenant to examine his own arms, and finding them in good order, he gave the Tartar a friendly tap on the shoulder as a signal that he was to start.

The sledge sped on its way swift as an arrow along the wild and solitary, sometimes even dangerous roads which led to the Crimea, with a rapidity and security which excited the astonishment of the traveller.

They took the road by Oczakow and Kinburn, across the mouths of the Dnieper and the dreary desert, in order to gain by forced journeys Perekop, the gate of the Crimea.

The wild uniform appearance of the Steppes which they had traversed in solitude, often exciting terror, was enlivened as they approached Perekop by the numerous salt carts which they saw on all the roads.

The Salt Lakes, the source of immense industry, lay on the road to the little gloomy town of Perekop, which is conspicuous from its peculiar position, and which marks the

narrow neck of land connecting the Crimea with Russia.

A lofty gate, which here affords admittance through a rampart eight versts and a half long, gave our travellers access to the strange country of the Crimea, endowed as it is with the most remarkable natural advantages.

This gate, anything but suitable to the dignity of such an entrance, seems by its narrowness adapted rather to hinder than facilitate admission, and was no doubt built for the purpose of preventing as much as possible the contraband trade in salt.*

At Perekop, Golz, who had not yet quite recovered his usual strength, and who was exhausted by the fearful cold of the Steppes which he had traversed, allowed himself a day of repose; after which he proceeded in a southerly direction into the interior of the Crimea, and under the influence of entirely new scenery his strength and spirits rapidly improved.

Nature appeared to change as by magic

* Compare M. de Castelnau, 'Essai sur l'Histoire de la Nouvelle Russie;' M. von Engelhardt und F. Parrot, 'Reise in die Krim und den Kaukasus.'

under the steps of the travellers: the scenery became richer and more picturesque, and the winter season, which had hitherto spread abroad undreamed of horrors, assumed a milder form, so that in the valleys they could already perceive a slight indication of spring.

In the blue sky were seen flocks of cranes and storks: on the lakes, from which the ice was beginning to melt, fine swans spread out their wings, and tulips and hyacinths were already blooming in all their beauty in the gardens of the villages through which Golz passed in his Tartar sledge.

At Armandskoi Bazaar, a village four versts from Perekop, where there is an Armenian colony, celebrated on account of its much frequented fair, he found those kitchens of which he had heard so much on the road, whose chimneys, with their ever rising smoke, give notice of the rare dainties prepared for the refreshment of the numerous travellers and merchants who repair thither.

The Prussian Lieutenant not only partook of a dinner such as had not been served to him during the whole journey, but he

also inspected the military works which still remained in the neighbourhood, erected in times of former warfare between Russia and the Tartars, and which were on many accounts interesting to him.

The lines of defence which had been erected there, and at Perekop, against Russia, appeared to him to claim attentive consideration, both on account of the King's present intentions and of the commission entrusted to him.

He now proceeded with redoubled haste. The sun shone with magic beauty on the surrounding scenery, and brought out in bold relief the lofty chain of mountains which bounded the horizon. The highest mountain of the Crimea, the Tschadir-Dagh,* now broke forth with its enormous masses from the clouds which covered its two peaks, and below it innumerable mountains of various and picturesque forms stretched down to the coast of the Black Sea.

* The Tartar name of the mountain called by the ancients Berosus, and which some authors identify with the Trapezos of the Greeks. A. von Demidoff, 'Reise nach dem südlichen Russland und der Krim, deutsch von Reigebaur,' ii. 96.

The road then passed through a succession of valleys, and our travellers found themselves surrounded, now by grotesquely cut limestone walls, now by dark coloured basaltic rocks, then the road ran close to the bare polished slate-rocks, which presented the appearance of carved balustrades.

From the heights and out of the ravines of these rocks flew at times whole swarms of vultures, at which Golz could not refrain from discharging his pistols; he was, however, only enabled to confirm the opinion expressed in characteristic pantomime by his bearded guide, that it was a fruitless pursuit.

He then amused himself with looking at the Tartar villages, built in the rocks, which, with their flat-roofed houses rising in terraces one above another, now became more frequent.

In this manner Golz reached Simpheropol, which had already announced itself to him, at a distance, by the spires of the Metschein or Tartar houses of prayer, and by its white edifices shining afar in the sunbeams.

Golz contemplated this place, in itself nar-

row and ugly, but which stretches romantically along the banks of the Salghir, from the stone bridge, which in the immediate neighbourhood of the town crosses the narrow and rapid river, whence he was able to take in at one view the whole panorama of the Tauric chain of mountains, at the head of which rose Tschadir-Dagh in its full rounded form.

The Prussian envoy did not consider it right to yield to the inclination he felt to linger in this town, consisting chiefly of low Tartaric huts, and he hastened to remount his vehicle, in order to follow the road to Bakschi-Serai, the now not far distant capital of the great Khan Krim-Girai.

The road to Bakschi-Serai appeared first to disclose in all its beauty the poetical abundance which this lovely spot contains. Mountains, valleys, and rivers followed in grand variety; aqueducts, constructed on the most artistic principles, attracted the admiring gaze of our traveller; and at the same time, in these architectural remains, as well as in the many old bridges over which the road passed, in decayed temples, towers, and ruins of all kinds,

he saw convincing proofs of a former civilisation, the remains of which had resisted the mighty and incessant force of the elements; and spread themselves as if by enchantment over this path through nature's wilderness.

CHAPTER III.

ARRIVAL AT BAKSCHI-SERAI.

The Alma — Bakschi-Serai — Boskamp: his hospitality and advice — Golz assumes the character of a horse-dealer — Re-appearance of the barber.

It was evening when Golz reached the banks of the Alma, which flows at no great distance from Bakschi-Serai. This river, which in summer presents the appearance of a peaceful brook, was now, in consequence of the masses of snow melting from off the mountain-tops, swollen into a mighty and dangerous torrent.

Along its pleasant banks extend a number of cheerfully-situated villages, and the far-famed valley of the Alma, in which grows a peculiarly fragrant hay, dedicated by old custom to the use of the Khan's horses.

Upon descending a mountain which sloped down gently, the traveller, before he was aware of the proximity of a town, beheld

Bakschi-Serai lying in a narrow valley surrounded by high mountains.

It was growing dark as Golz entered the narrow streets of the Tartar capital, but he immediately felt that he was in an Oriental city, and in a colony of undoubted Asiatic descent.

The Tartar who drove Golz appeared to have received instructions whither he was to conduct him, and the young man quietly allowed himself to be driven through the dark streets, in which there now lingered only a few strange-looking figures.

They proceeded along a more than usually long street, remarkable from its high houses with their towering chimneys, that stretched as far as the Tchouruksou, which river flows through the whole length of Bakschi-Serai.

They halted nearly at the end of this street before a house of mean appearance, from which, as soon as the driver had announced his arrival, a tall, slim figure in Tartar costume emerged, and approached the newly-arrived traveller with an inquiring air.

Golz was confirmed in his conjecture that

this was Boskamp by hearing himself addressed in German. It was Boskamp, who received him with extreme cordiality, and conducted him into the house with the most obliging assurances that he placed it at his disposal for the whole period of his residence in the Crimea.

Golz accepted the invitation, and having taken measures for rewarding his Tartar driver and for the accommodation of his servant, followed Boskamp into a small apartment furnished scantily and without taste, according to European ideas, but which, nevertheless, offered every comfort necessary to a traveller exhausted by so fatiguing a journey.

A quickly-spread repast soon united the new acquaintances in a lively interchange of opinions; and Golz had reason to admire Boskamp's extraordinary shrewdness and versatility of talent, and he profited by them in his consultations concerning the peculiar circumstances under which he would have to carry out the mission entrusted to him by the King.

Golz, who had hitherto known nothing of Boskamp except that he had led an adventurous life, could not conceal from himself that his manner was little calculated to inspire confidence.

He found him, it is true, very communicative, and apparently desirous of imparting to him the information of which he stood in need, in order to begin his labours; but these communications were accompanied by such strange indications of reserve, and he viewed things in such a suspicious and sarcastic manner, that Golz contemplated this diplomatic agent of his Prussian Majesty with increasing misgiving.

Though Golz deemed it necessary to maintain a certain degree of reserve as to the nature and extent of his mission to Krim-Girai, yet he thought it advisable to listen to Boskamp's advice, particularly as to the forms and means to be adopted for the attainment of his object at Bakschi-Serai.

M. de Boskamp recommended the greatest prudence, so as not to arouse the suspicions of the French Consul accredited to the Tartar

Court, and of the numerous Russian spies who were travelling about; and on this account he advised him to assume a simple and easily-sustained character, which might afford him the opportunity of entering into frequent communication with the Khan himself, and yet entirely conceal his political mission.

When Golz asked him what character, according to his knowledge of the state of things, he would recommend as likely to be the most effectual, he answered, after some consideration, "We must consult together on that point in the most candid manner. In the first place, I think you should not change your uniform as a Prussian officer, for it is much beloved here, and excites, in connexion with the military renown of King Frederick, which has spread even as far as Bakschi-Serai, the most friendly feelings.

"But this uniform will more particularly find favour in the eyes of the Khan, and it will appear an especial honour that you should thus treat with him upon his Majesty's affairs.

"On the King's account, you must not make

any change in your dress. I laid aside my uniform, and put on this Tartar war-dress, more for my own convenience than for any particular object which I had in view."

Golz thought this comparison between himself and Boskamp more than absurd, as the latter had no right to the uniform of a Prussian officer; and during his short and obscure career in an Austrian hussar regiment had, as was well known, obtained no higher grade than that of cornet. He set it down, however, merely as a proof of his vanity, and determined to follow his advice only so far as it should appear to him to be sound.

"Do you know, my dear Baron, what you really must do?" said Boskamp at length; and his unprepossessing countenance assumed a more gay and cheerful aspect: "you must give yourself out as a Prussian officer come to buy a few thousand troop-horses in Moldavia and Tartary for your sovereign, and you must say that you came to Bakschi-Serai in order to obtain a firman from the Khan to facilitate your purchases. This pretence will be of the

greatest advantage to us. In the same manner when I first came here I gave myself out as a secretary of Prince Radzivill, whose possessions border on Tartary, sent by him to arrange certain boundary questions. In that way I became intimately acquainted with the very wise Abdullah Effendi, first and most important councillor of the Khan, and fathomed through him, in this disguise, the Khan's opinions concerning Prussia and her great King."

Golz could not but acknowledge that it was above all important to conceal the object of his mission from the French and Russian spies in the Peninsula, and on that account, after some consideration, consented to assume the character recommended, with regard to which Boskamp promised previously to effect an understanding with the Khan through Abdullah Effendi.

Boskamp then asked if he had plenty of money with him, as, in addition to the transactions into which he must enter with horse-dealers and Jews, he would require a great

deal for presents at the court of Bakschi-Serai.

At this moment the noise of a horseman with a numerous suite was heard before the house, and soon after Mustapha Aga, the well-known barber, made his appearance, followed by servants bearing a number of dishes and vases; these they placed on the table at which Golz and Boskamp had just supped, having previously deposited a number of well-filled sacks on the floor.

The lively Mustapha assumed for a moment a formal deportment, which however lasted only until he had in the most friendly manner welcomed Golz on the part of the Khan, who had despatched him for that purpose the instant he heard of his arrival.

He then jumped about the room with the greatest glee, and expressed his delight at seeing again in good health his Prussian friend and travelling companion, to whom he was already bound by ties of attachment and respect.

M. de Boskamp had in the mean time been examining with the eye of a connoisseur the

presents brought by the slaves, and informed the astonished Golz that these were the usual daily allowances of meat, coffee, sugar, spices, bread, fruit, and similar things which the Khan would send him regularly during his stay, while the sacks on the floor contained fodder for the horses which would be placed at his disposal.

Boskamp considered this opportunity suitable for discussing at once with the trusty servant of Krim-Girai the plan arranged between him and Golz as to the character which the latter was to assume at Bakschi-Serai. In his conversation with him he used sometimes the Turkish, sometimes the Tartar language, both of which he had completely mastered, while now and then, probably for the purpose of astonishing Golz, he allowed a few Greek and Italian phrases to slip in.

The barber, who with his arch and intelligent countenance listened with the greatest attention, burst out laughing when he heard the plan, pronounced it excellent, and promised to tell it to his Sovereign the next morning when he shaved him.

He then departed, and Golz, who was in want of rest, took leave of his new friend with an increased dislike to his forward and obtrusive manners.

CHAPTER IV.

KRIM-GIRAI, KHAN OF THE TARTARS.

Procession to the palace — Description of the interior — Audience of the Khan — Friendly dismissal of the envoy — Private audience appointed.

THE next morning Mustapha Aga appeared in state, and accompanied by a brilliant suite, for the purpose of escorting M. de Golz to the appointed audience of the Khan.

Mustapha at the same time ordered to be led forth a riding-horse of extraordinary beauty, placed by the Khan at the disposal of Golz, who mounted it with the most agreeable sensations, and, followed by the numerous and stately attendants, rode by the side of the barber down the street to the celebrated Palace of the Khans, of which he had learned so much from travellers, tradition, and poetry.

The procession passed along the principal

street : and Golz, who had driven through it in the twilight of the previous evening, was struck by the peculiar character impressed upon it by the long rows of booths and shops on both sides filled with provisions and other articles.

Behind these booths, houses, each in a small garden, and built on terraces, one above another, spread themselves up the rising ground of the mountains which closely surrounded the town.

While Golz was lost in astonishment at the sight of a commerce and industry which he had scarcely expected to find in the Crimea, his attention was attracted by the lofty towers of the mosques, which on every side of the city rose high above the beautiful Lombardy poplars with which they were encircled.

With feelings of admiration excited by the view of this peculiar amphitheatre of houses, mountains, shops, and kiosks, and accompanied by his kind-hearted friend, who pointed out everything worthy of notice, Golz rode along the street, at the end of which a bridge

over the Tchourouksou led directly to the gate of the Palace of the Khans.

In the first court, which was overtopped by a terrace-garden rising up the mountain in the form of an amphitheatre, they dismounted, and proceeded on foot to enter the marvellously vast palace.

Golz believed himself to have been transported into the enchanted life of the Arabian Nights when he saw the large groups of buildings separated from each other by broad courts and gardens.

He sought in vain a spot whence he could at one view behold the colossal whole. His astonished eye wandered as in a dream over innumerable inscriptions and monograms displayed over the doors, and paintings of flowers, birds, fruits, and figures of all sorts which profusely decorated the walls.

After having crossed in company with his guide a court planted with poplars and Turkish elder-trees, in the middle of which a fountain, surrounded by willows, sent forth its soft murmurs, he reached the entrance-hall of the palace itself, in the mysterious

dim light of which the melancholy whisperings of another fountain resounded.

Mustapha Aga informed him with an air of solemn gravity, that this fountain was celebrated throughout the world, and that, on account of the peculiarly soft and mournful tone with which its waters flowed into the marble basin, it was called the Fountain of Tears.* The walls of this hall were covered with large paintings of islands, bays, and castles fantastically thrown together, while the slabs of the flooring were inscribed with verses from the Koran, inlaid with Turkish characters in gold on a dark ground.

From this entrance-hall Golz was conducted

* The celebrated poem of Puschkin, 'Der Brunnen von Baksschi-Serai,' has immortalised the history of this fountain. (*Revue de l'Orient*.) Castelnau gives a detailed account of this palace, with all its peculiarities, though after its restoration, which was effected by Elson by the command of the Russian government. (*Essai sur l'Histoire de la Nouvelle Russie*, iii. 158.) This restoration, however, preserved the former character of the palace and the peculiarities of Tartaric architecture, and the paintings, both exterior and interior, have been for the most part merely renovated. (For an account of the present state of the palace of the Khans I would beg permission to refer my readers to Mr. Oliphant's very interesting work on the Russian Shores of the Black Sea.—W. E.)

through a suite of small but prettily-furnished saloons, which glittered with gold, silver, and crystal, and which received a dim magic light through painted windows of many colours.

These rooms led to the hall of reception, in which the Khan had commanded that Golz, in the character already agreed upon, should have his first formal audience.

It was in this hall, brilliant and dazzling, with walls and cornices most exquisitely carved, that Golz first saw the Khan, surrounded by the Court in gala costume.

He was presented by the barber, in the most flattering and honourable manner, as the Prussian officer who had come to ask for the Khan's firman permitting him to purchase and export horses.

He observed with deep interest the powerful form, towering above all the others, of the Khan, whom he at last beheld face to face, and who appeared to him almost as a hero of olden time, presented before him in flesh and blood.

Krim-Girai's figure was strong and majestic, and not devoid of grace.

His countenance was full of character and vigour, and upon it a resolute and austere expression was blended with one of joviality and satirical humour.

His large piercing eye showed that this powerful son of Nature possessed not only the characteristics of a ruler and a warrior, but was also endowed with unusual activity and power of intellect. A pleasing, thoughtful, almost meditative expression played about his brow, and gave a European character to a countenance otherwise bearing too marked traces of Tartar origin, though of the most noble kind.

His manner and address as he received the Prussian envoy showed an ease, a dignity, and a kind-heartedness not always found on a European throne.*

Krim-Girai must at this period have been about forty-five years old, as in the year 1758, when he was placed on the throne by a revolutionary movement of the Noghai

* Compare Peyssonel, '*Traité sur le Commerce de la Mer Noire*,' ii. 370; Siestrzencewicz, '*Histoire du Royaume de la Chersonèse Taurique*,' p. 414.

tribes, he had scarcely attained the age of forty.

Since the Crimea had been subject to Turkey no Khan had ever attained the sovereignty at so early an age. Among the Noghais, who, divided into four hordes, inhabit that part of Little Tartary which lies between the Danube and the Kuban, the Budshiaks, who had established themselves between the Danube and the Dniester, had always been distinguished by a bold, martial valour and a spirit of adventure. Krim-Girai had originally ruled these Budshiak Noghai Tartars as Seraskier. The Sultan was compelled by the turbulence of these tribes to name him Sovereign of the whole Crimea, and had been obliged, almost against his will, to send him the Sword and Girdle, the Quiver and the Bow, the Kalpac and Heron's Plume, and the magnificent Horse which every Khan in the Crimea had from time immemorial received upon his installation.

Krim-Girai was, on account of the high esteem in which he was held by all Tartars, of his warlike spirit, and of his vehement

hatred of Russia, especially calculated to be a powerful instrument in the policy of Turkey, which became every day more anti-Russian. But this was not fully understood at Constantinople till a later period.

The manner in which the Khan received the envoy of Frederick the Great betrayed but for a moment the lofty pride of the Tartar ruler, which gave way to a good-natured familiarity during the ceremonies prescribed by the customs of the country on such occasions.

After the usual compliments had been exchanged, coffee and pipes were handed round, and then the real business was entered upon.

Golz, who was not accustomed to smoking, was nevertheless forced to take a pipe some yards long, which was presented to him ready lighted by an attendant.

The Khan, who was standing surrounded by the courtiers and great officers of state, had put the fragrant tube to his lips, and puffed out clouds of smoke with playful delight, turning from time to time a sharp, observing glance upon the Lieutenant.

The Grand Vizier, Hadji Mahomet Aga, who had the reputation of being an extraordinarily great politician and statesman, was smoking by the side of his Sovereign with laudable energy and with inimitable grace.

So was also Abdullah Effendi, the Khan's important privy councillor, who seemed to be the executive organ of all government business in the Crimea.

When they had finished their coffee, Golz was commanded by the Khan, through the barber, to put his request into a detailed form, which he immediately did in the manner agreed upon.

The Khan listened to him with an assenting nod, and made a sign to his privy councillor Abdullah Effendi, which seemed to indicate that no hindrance should be put in the way of issuing a firman for the purchase of horses in Tartary.

Krim-Girai then asked the Prussian envoy with a sarcastic, half-encouraging, half-embarrassing smile, "How is the great King of Prussia, whom I admire and envy, not merely on account of his sword, but also on account

of his flute? How often have I wished that I could play that instrument, and that my dignity as ruler of the Crimea and of the Tartars permitted it! In my dreams I often hear the sweet tones of your King's flute meeting my ear, and each time I have thought to myself that the land of the West, where kings can govern with their flutes, must be a highly favoured land. I, too, should like to form a good state here, and I have my own ideas on the subject. There must indeed be a friendly understanding between the prince and the people when the King only plays the flute as leader of the orchestra, and the people follow simply because they like to do so, and because it gives them infinite pleasure to listen to him. But then the Khan must also have the right to let his flute fall as a cudgel on the head of his subjects in case of necessity, if they absolutely refuse to chime in with the air which he plays to them. Some remarkable men are said to have arisen among the French, who have taught in their books kingcraft of this kind; among them especially a certain Montesquieu, of whose ideas I have

lately heard a great deal from a traveller. His notions coincide with my own, and I would willingly introduce them here if I dared to confront my Tartars with a flute to my lips."

The Khan laughed heartily at these words, and seemed curious to hear a reply from Golz, to whom this speech of Krim-Girai's, delivered with energetic liveliness, had been faithfully rendered by the interpreter.

Golz had listened in the utmost astonishment: he perceived that rumour had by no means exaggerated in describing the Khan not only as a warlike hero, but also as a singular and inquisitive genius, who from his own natural strength of mind turned his thoughts to the ideas and institutions of the West, and studied them, and tried if possible to introduce them into his own dominions.

Having answered with great adroitness and courtesy, as aptly as he was able at the moment, he observed that the King of Prussia himself had written books, essays, and poems of various kinds, in which he expressed many

ideas entirely coinciding with those of Montesquieu and Krim-Girai.

The Khan listened to this with a certain degree of pride, and showed his satisfaction by looking triumphantly round at his court, stroking his black, curly beard.

He then said, in a thoroughly confidential and friendly tone, "You will at least find good horses in Tartary, but I flatter myself that our wilderness will not appear to you entirely deserted by the Muses. You must come to a concert at my palace, for I pride myself on my band, which is composed, as I hope you will find, of the best performers on all instruments. I have also at my court a troop of comedians and buffoons, who perform the most amusing pieces. You are invited to the next representation. I am anxious that you should be able to give a favourable account of me to the King your master, and to describe his friend and admirer as something better than an uncivilised, dark barbarian, for what pleasure could it be to him to be admired and beloved by such an one? Tell him that Krim-Girai is a jovial fellow, who loves plea-

sure and has good French plays represented before him, though a good deal is unintelligible to him. At any rate, we are not yet old enough to be unable to learn with diligence, and if you, sons of the West, will only have patience with us Tartars, we will still pass our examination before you."

He then dismissed the Envoy with the same friendly ceremonies which had taken place at his reception.

Mustapha Aga reconducted Golz, and whispered in his ear as they reached the entrance hall that the Khan would receive him at a private audience next evening at eight o'clock, when the real business of his mission would be discussed; he added, that the Khan had already given him this command, and that he himself would act as interpreter at this conversation, which would probably be conclusive.

CHAPTER V.

THE PALACE OF THE KHAN.

Interior of the palace — The harem — Splendid panorama —
Burial-ground of the Khans — Return of the procession.

GOLZ had an opportunity on his return of wandering through the palace, and of allowing his astonished and admiring gaze to rest on objects past which he had hurried when he entered.

In the back-ground of the entrance hall two doors attracted his attention, one of which his guide informed him led into a small mosque, the other to the Divan of Justice, which Mustapha proposed to him to visit.

He beheld a long and magnificently adorned saloon, on the lofty ceiling of which were painted in the most brilliant colours groups and figures of all sorts wonderfully arranged,

while gilt and carved work of the most varied forms glittered on the walls.

The light of day penetrated in sombre tints through a double row of stained-glass windows which ranged on one side of the saloon only.

Over the principal entrance a small barred gallery, opposite a richly adorned canopy which surmounted the throne, attracted attention on account of its mysterious appearance.

Golz learned from his admirable cicerone, the accomplished barber, that the Khan frequented it secretly when he wished unseen to witness the mode of doing justice practised by his judges.

Mustapha remarked with his arch smile that causes were more likely to be impartially judged because the Khan reached the gallery by a private staircase in the wall, and the judges were uncertain whether he were present or not.

The barber, who on this occasion gave full play to his love of talking, told him, amongst other things, how ladies were able to assist at trials which interested them without being

seen. The fair inhabitants of the harem were invited on certain days, that they might sometimes see other human faces as well as their own.

“This says a great deal for our Khan’s liberal principles,” said Mustapha; “but I must add that the charming ladies are kept in sight by a young and beardless slave who is charged to watch their beaming glances. If it appear to him that one of them fixes her gaze too intently on any of the male forms in the hall, he calls out in shrill tones, and the whole flock disappear quick as lightning; sighing, scolding, and laughing, they trip down stairs, followed by their guardian, who must re-conduct them to the gate of the harem.”

Mustapha Aga was himself so much amused with this description that he laughed long and loud over it.

The Prussian Lieutenant, of course, failed not to ask many questions concerning the external and internal arrangement of the harem.

Mustapha Aga, with a significant shrug of his shoulders, laid his finger on his lips, and

pointed out to him a small door, scarcely perceptible in the distance, and he said it opened into a long corridor, which connected the palace with the harem, and led to the "Valley of Roses." The barber, however, left it doubtful whether this name, which was given to the harem, had its origin in the beauty of its inhabitants or in the mass of roses that grew in this spot, which he represented to Golz as a perfect Paradise, whose voluptuous silence was only interrupted by the gentle rippling of the waters and the sweet voice of the nightingale.

Mustapha lowered his voice in so mysterious a manner while talking of these beauties that Golz felt almost inclined to laugh.

They then traversed other courts, in all of which they were greeted by the sparkling rays from innumerable fountains whose fresh waters took their rise in the surrounding mountains.

Then they reached a court in which the military spectacles and exercises took place : on one side of which was a high tower with a trellised terrace, whence the wives of the

Khan could often, as spectators, enjoy the sports got up by his guards, or by the comedians and jesters in his pay.

Golz was invited by his guide to mount the tower, from which to his great delight the whole of the palace, with the labyrinth of courts, gardens, and buildings contained within its walls, presented itself to his astonished view.

Beyond this wonderful panorama Golz saw lying before him the whole town of Bakschi-Serai, built in the form of a cone on a picturesquely grouped chain of mountains. It was indeed an enchanting picture of infinite variety which spread itself before him, calculated to produce a cheerful effect on the mind of the beholder.

The barber, who, with his kind care for Golz, wished, if possible, to show him everything, next led him to the other side of the palace, where behind a mosque, from which the dervishes were with solemn, melancholy notes announcing the hour of prayer, lay the burial-ground dedicated to the family of the Khans.

From this cheerful spot, adorned with fragrant shrubs, and intersected by a murmuring rivulet, the terrors of death were entirely banished, and it only recalled peaceful reminiscences of the great and glorious race of heroes who slept therein.

Two large octangular mausoleums, with lofty projecting iron cupolas, presented themselves as the places of interment of the ancient sovereign house of the Girais.

This family, descended from a Mongol prince, Hadji Girai, was considered to be an offshoot of the house of Genghis Khan. It was able to trace its descent from high and illustrious antiquity, and had for a long time stamped the history of the Tauric Chersonese with the character of powerful opposition and successful resistance to the might of Russia.*

Around these mausoleums lay numerous princes and princesses of the house, either in stone monuments or wooden coffins, hung round with green or black stuffs.

The tombs of the men were surmounted by

* Compare Castelnau, 'Essai sur l'Histoire de la Nouvelle Russie,' i. 213, 267; 'L'Histoire de la Tauride,' ii. 199.

woollen turbans, and were thus distinguished from those of the ladies, which were devoid of all ornament.

Beyond the mausoleums a number of tombs of different epochs, which by their character and dilapidated condition bore testimony to their extreme antiquity, were scattered about among the bushes, and over the spacious extent of this burial-ground ; together with marble blocks with partly effaced inscriptions, which appeared to have been separated from the graves of the persons whose names and praises they recorded.

Other tombs, adorned with carpets and hangings from Cashmere, testified by the ever-burning lamps to the pious care with which they were watched over, and the great historic names engraved on them in letters of gold claimed respect that could not be refused.

Mustapha Aga read to Golz some of these Tartar inscriptions with a genuine religious and devotional solemnity, and translated them with historical illustrations, which proved how well acquainted he was with the legends of his Fatherland.

Neither did he fail to make a sentimental digression as they walked over the grave which covered the remains of a beautiful Georgian, who had in consequence of her beauty become the wife of the otherwise unfortunate Arslan-Girai, brother of Krim-Girai.

Mustapha bowed himself over the grave with tears, which bore witness to lively personal recollections, and kissed a fragrant purple iris, already blooming in all the beauty of early spring by the side of the grave.

Deeply impressed, Golz prepared to leave the spot.

His companion was silent and grave as they returned through the courts, and it was not until they had remounted their horses, which awaited them in the first court, that the barber displayed his usual cheerfulness, and declared that he thought it his duty to return, as they came, in procession.

CHAPTER VI.

ALLIANCE BETWEEN PRUSSIA AND THE CRIMEA.

Private audience of the Khan — His evasion — Want of money — Krim-Girai an alchemist — Disappointment of Golz — Crafty diplomacy of the Khan — His request for a Prussian physician — Despatch of Golz to Frederick, announcing the Khan's determination to invade Russia.

GOLZ spent the rest of that day, and the greater portion of the next, partly in the very agreeable occupation of inspecting the town, partly far less pleasantly in dealings with Jews and horse-merchants, whom Boskamp had introduced in order to make it appear in the eyes of the foreign spies that his business was merely of a mercantile character.

Golz was forced by Boskamp's advice to spend considerable sums of money, which he could ill spare out of the small means with which he was supplied.

He wished to deliver at the private audience the next evening the presents sent by the King of Prussia to the Khan, but Boskamp earnestly advised him to apply to the King in the first despatch for fresh and more numerous presents, without which, he said, success was impossible at the court of the Khan.

The following evening Mustapha Aga, as soon as it began to grow dusk, conducted Golz with all due precaution to the palace, that he might enter upon the real business of his mission.

Krim-Girai received him this time in his cabinet, in which, besides Mustapha Aga, his Privy Councillor and State Secretary Abdullah Effendi alone was present.

Krim-Girai advanced to meet the Prussian envoy with an air of affability, almost of equality, and after having looked at and admired the presents brought by him, asked what his good friend and brother the King of Prussia required of him.

Golz proceeded to explain that his Sovereign, sore pressed and harassed by the state of his affairs, looked to the East for deliver-

ance, and especially to his dear friend and brother the illustrious Prince of the Crimea. His Majesty applied for twofold assistance : first, he requested that a body of Tartar troops might be placed at his disposal ; and, secondly, that the Khan himself with another body of his troops should invade the Russian territory.

Golz set forth with considerable ability the benefits to be derived from the contemplated alliance between Prussia and Turkey, by means of which a position would be obtained whence they might in two directions assume the offensive against the threatening and hostile attitude of Russia and Austria.

He added that the defeat of the Russians by the Tartars would be the signal for giving a new direction to the military plans and operations of Prussia in the West—that the Khan would thus be enabled to march victoriously against his hereditary enemy Russia at a moment when her forces were scattered, and take ample revenge for all past injuries.

The greater part of the Russian army, with the exception of a few regiments, was, he

said, in Prussia, and the frontier as well as the interior of Russia was almost destitute of the means of resisting an incursion. His royal master, Frederick the Great, had weighed this in his comprehensive mind, and caused this appeal for assistance to be made to his friend the Khan, in full confidence that grounds for declaring war were by no means wanting. The Russians had, in defiance of the Treaty of Carlowitz, entered Poland, and had also made new fortifications on the Tartar frontier, as he had himself had an opportunity of observing on his journey to the Crimea.

In conclusion, Golz, in accordance with his instructions, presented several hundred purses* to defray the expense of calling out the soldiers, and at the same time, in the name of his Sovereign, gave the assurance that the Tartar contingent would be entitled to all the booty which they might take in the enemy's country.

* A purse contains 500 piastres. For this account of the plan of operations compare 'Nachrichten über die Gesandtschaftsreise des Lieutenants von der Golz zu dem Tatar Khan, in den Denkwürdigkeiten für die Kriegskunst,' Heft 6, S. 116.

The Khan had listened with the greatest attention and calmness, and frequently with a smile and nod of the head appeared to signify his assent.

His countenance, which displayed a singular mixture of good humour and barbarism, was however suddenly overcast by a well-affected air of reserve; and after remaining silent for some time, as though meditating, he said slowly, and with assumed indifference, "All this is very fine which my good friend and brother of Prussia communicates to me, and he shall certainly find me prepared to do all that lies in my power; but I am, for the moment, only a dependent, without the free use of my will, for I am bound to obtain the consent of the Porte to all my undertakings."

"In good truth," added he, smiling, "I have a strong arm which wields its own sword, and such an arm certainly obeys first its own muscles. A cultivated barbarian, such as I have the reputation of being, knows what is due to the Divan at Constantinople; at least does not omit willingly the

necessary compliments in that quarter. Tell your King that he will find me ready at the proper time ; and that I will not fail to set out with my best troops, which shall be placed at Akermann, in Bessarabia, where the Dniester flows rapidly and impetuously into the Black Sea. This position will be very agreeable to your Sovereign, and very unpleasant to the Russians ; but I must wait for the fulfilment of one or two conditions, especially the return of my court interpreter, Jacuba, whom I despatched recently to your Sovereign, with a few new questions and inquiries, before I could make sure of your arrival.

“ In the meanwhile make yourself happy here ; come frequently to my concerts, an honour which I hope you will do me to-morrow evening, and tell me how they are managed in your country, what your philosophers and learned men have been saying, and how your monarch became so great and so renowned, not for arms only, but for the skill with which he governs his dominions.”

Golz perceived with some dissatisfaction

that Krim-Girai wished to act evasively, and to protract the negotiations.

The importance of their nature admitted of no delay, and he thought it incumbent upon him to sound more closely the Khan's diplomatic views.

He therefore begged permission to inquire the further conditions on the fulfilment of which any decided movement on the part of the Khan in the interests of the King of Prussia must depend.

The keen and sparkling eye of the Khan suddenly assumed a good-humoured, familiar expression. "There is certainly one point which, though disagreeable, is very important," said he with a comical tone, "which must be settled before I can take the field. This is the money question, with regard to which I am peculiarly circumstanced. You must know that Krim-Girai is over head and ears in debt, for my sovereignty over the Tartars costs me a great deal of money. I have also had to purchase much furniture to restore to this old palace of my predecessors an appearance worthy of it. See how beau-

tiful and new all around you is, and you will perceive that I must have spent considerable sums. Look at these Turkey carpets which I got from Constantinople: they are very expensive—and these velvet divans with their thick gold fringes, with which I have furnished the whole palace, would soon empty a better filled treasury than mine has ever been.”

At these words he stretched himself, laughing, with an air of great comfort on one of the richly embroidered divans on which he was seated opposite to Golz.

From this outburst of mirth Golz did not exactly know how matters stood, and whether the allusions of the Khan to money, to which he was, as was well known, addicted in an extravagant degree, were genuine, or were jokingly employed as an excuse for diplomatic delay. He therefore waited in silence for further communications from Krim-Girai, who after a momentary pause said, in a cheerful manner, “Now that a brave Prussian and a jolly Tartar are sitting together so confidingly,

I will make a confession, taking my chance of its raising or lowering me in your opinion. Know then, that for a long time I have interested myself much in natural sciences, and have tried to become acquainted with what you call chemistry, physics, and astronomy. A Frenchman, who sojourned at this court a few years ago, put it into my head that the mountains of the Crimea, round about here, contain the most precious metals. I found the indications which he gave me so far verified by my diggings, that I began to spend an immense sum of money in the undertaking. This also exhausted my coffers, and as my mountains have not yet yielded any gold or silver, Krim-Girai, who is not to be joked with, has begun to make it with his own hands. Considerable progress seems to have been made in your country in alchemy, as you call it. Your European ingenuity is so great, that gold-making is the least thing that may be expected from it. Now I pore over a crucible every night with the hope of seeing gold shining in it, but hitherto my

brewing has been dirty and thick, and until it gets better I cannot easily take the field in full force for your King.”*

Golz did not receive a favourable impression from this communication; disappointment and doubt clouded his brow at this momentary failure of his mission.

He ventured to remark that gold might perhaps be obtained in a quicker manner if Krim-Girai would march against the Russians with his hordes; for, by repelling and annihilating the power of Russia, the prosperity of Europe would be restored, and the coffers of every European state so abundantly replenished, that the Crimea would be more speedily enriched than by the treasures of the mines or the operations of the crucible.

Krim-Girai seemed fully to understand the force of these remarks, and he reflected for a moment; then drawing himself up to his full height, he replied proudly, “Who has more call than I have to defeat the Russians,

* Compare Siestrzencewicz, ‘Histoire du Royaume de la Chersonèse Taurique,’ p. 415.

and to break for ever the cruel devouring tooth of my cunning hereditary enemy? I believe that the God whom I worship will, sooner or later, give this just revenge into my hands. For vengeance on the part of the Crimea against Russia is become a part of my religion; I vowed it, at the time when the Czarina Anne Ivanowna, in 1736, soon after she had mounted the throne, sent Marshal Munich at the head of a savage army to devastate and deluge with blood our glorious Pannonia, and to wage a cruel, shameful war against our people, our cities, villages, and fields!

"Meanwhile," said he, interrupting the further expression of his anger with a diplomatic turn, "the time will come, and very soon, when the oath of my youth will be accomplished, and my brother the King of Prussia will see that it was no unlucky thought of his when he counted upon me as an ally, and granted me the honour of fellow-chivalry against Russia, the enemy of the whole world."

Golz bowed respectfully, and considered himself dismissed for the present.

It was become clear to him that he had to deal with a very uncommon and crafty man, in whom a natural frankness and an artificial cunning were united in a remarkable manner, and who knew how to conceal his selfishness and barbarism behind a masterly diplomacy, to which he gave an air of the highest good humour and honesty.

The Khan now rose from his seat and said with peculiar formality, "When you address your first despatch to my good brother the King, tell him, before all things, that nothing he can do for me will earn my gratitude so much, and be such a proof of his friendship, as his sending me, as soon as possible, a clever physician, for I am very ill, and I have the firmest conviction that one of his Prussian Majesty's physicians would be able to cure me of my complaints. Though my search after the philosopher's stone should not succeed, yet, if I recover my full strength, and the King will help me in that respect, and free me from the

fearful spasms which have for some time visited me, he shall see that I will quickly make an expedition against the Russians, and press heavily on them when least expected."

After these words had been pronounced by the Khan, Golz withdrew in a deeply meditative mood.

That evening the privy councillor Abdullah Effendi, accompanied by an interpreter, visited him, and inquired with considerable anxiety if he had sent his first despatch to his Prussian Majesty.

When Golz replied that he was just in the act of writing it, Abdullah Effendi said that he was to leave no doubt on the King's mind as to the Khan's intentions; that he fully purposed to assemble his troops in the month of March at Akermann; he would then lay his complaints against Russia at the Porte, and, without waiting for an answer from Constantinople, would at once undertake an invasion of Russia.

This seemed to be a definite point, perceptible through the veil of ambiguity which had

hitherto concealed the Khan's intentions, and Golz hastened with renewed hope to announce in his despatch this important additional circumstance.

CHAPTER VII.

TARTAR DIPLOMACY.

Arrival of new presents from Frederick — Golz solicits another audience — Verbal answer of the Khan — Return of the Court interpreter from Breslau — Presentation of gifts — Procrastination of the Khan — Obtains additional subsidies — Dissensions between Golz and Boskamp — The Khan requests Golz to retire into Moldavia.

A DIPLOMATIC lull now took place, during which Golz dedicated his time partly to the not very agreeable society of Boskamp, and partly to the limited diversions and amusements which the city afforded.

He had to wait for the more valuable presents for which Boskamp had applied, and without which it appeared that a renewal of negotiations with the Khan would not be practicable.

At last, after the lapse of several weeks, Aaron Zadok, a Jew, arrived from Breslau with a special consignment, which King

Frederick had sent to Bakschi-Serai. It consisted of the richest and most costly stuffs of all kinds, fine cloth, linen, velvets, and silks; a number of gold watches and snuff-boxes of considerable value and most beautiful workmanship; but, above all, of a numerous collection of arms and magnificent swords, which would, it was confidently expected, make a favourable impression on the Khan.

The Prussian envoys thereupon agreed that the moment was come for attempting to take a fresh step in the business: during the last three weeks they had not seen the Khan except at a few court festivals, at which they had only had the opportunity of witnessing the performances of the French actors, hearing the Khan's Tartar band, and wondering at the boundless extravagance which reigned in the court of Krim-Girai.

Golz drew up and sent by the barber a memorial, informing the Khan that the Prussian envoys were provided with new instructions from their King, and that, as everything was now prepared for conclud-

ing a treaty between Prussia and the Crimea, they earnestly desired him to appoint a day and hour for that purpose.

Krim-Girai returned a verbal answer by the barber to the effect that written contracts were not in fashion with him or his people; that among the Orientals the word had not yet lost its power; that when he gave his promise, it might be considered inviolable; and that he hated the much writing of the Western nations, with the exception of their good books, which he esteemed highly, and with which he would like to fill his whole palace: that he himself was a man of the sword, and he would draw it for the King of Prussia, to whom he thought he gave a real proof of his friendship by assembling his troops at Akermann.*

After the Prussian envoys had been compelled to rest satisfied for a few days with this answer, the arrival of the court interpreter, Jacuba Aga, who on February 14th came from Breslau, where he had left the

* Nachrichten über die Gesandtschaftsreise des Lieutenant von der Goltz, a. a. O. S. 118.

King of Prussia, appeared all at once to give a more favourable turn to their mission.

Jacuba Aga had brought back the most brilliant account of the honourable reception which the King had given him, and his Majesty's assurances of friendship for the Khan, on whose ears they fell most pleasantly.

Krim-Girai, in spite of being obliged to keep his bed by a severe attack of illness, granted Golz a private audience, in order to discuss again, after a long interval, the political questions.

Golz appeared at this audience with numerous servants, and asked permission to present the newly-arrived presents from his Sovereign, and to display them by the Khan's bedside.

When this permission was granted, and the invalid Khan had with delight examined and admired the Prussian gifts, Golz expressed his regret at finding the Khan suffering; and added that the King had sent a physician, Doctor Frese, who had been summoned from Berlin, and who would shortly arrive in the Crimea, that he might by his skill restore the Tartar monarch's health. At the same time he

communicated, in a very earnest and decided manner, the King's wish that the Khan would immediately assemble his troops and set out, in order to let the Russians at once feel the effects of his undertaking. Krim-Girai heard the greater part of this communication with satisfaction, and cheerfully and graciously expressed his gratitude for the physician.

For the last point, however, he remarked, with renewed caution, that his good brother of Prussia must give him time.

On this he drew up to his face the gold embroidered silk coverlet in which he was wrapped, and appeared for a minute to be occupied only with himself and his sufferings.

Then turning again to Golz, he said he would be a friend of all Frederick's friends, and an enemy of all his enemies, though he could not yet name with precision the day for assembling his troops at Akermann. He would, however, in a few days, hold a conference about it with his privy councillor, Abdullah Effendi.

With this Golz saw himself once more dismissed, and several days passed before he had

any news of the Khan. At length Krim-Girai let him know that he had consulted with his privy councillor, Abdullah, on the matter; and that they had agreed that they must necessarily first keep the Ramazan and Bairam, the Lent and Easter of the Turks, and therefore that they could not leave Bakschi-Serai before the month of Shewal (the 24th of April), when they would certainly and without fail set out.

The following day the Khan sent again for Golz, and repeated this assurance at a special audience; but added that the Mirzas and Tartar chiefs must be gained over by presents. Moreover, at the same time, Krim-Girai remarked that it was requisite for Prussia to obtain a special permission from the Sublime Porte to allow him to send some hundred horses to the King of Prussia. Under that pretext it would be possible for him to send as many of his Tartars as Frederick could desire.

Upon this Golz returned home, and at once sat down to write a despatch to M. de Rexin, the Prussian ambassador at the Sublime Porte,

reporting to him the expressions of the Khan, and requesting him to introduce the subject immediately to the Divan, that no time might be lost in obtaining the necessary permission. He had scarcely finished his despatch, and intrusted it to one of his special messengers, when Krim-Girai sent a fresh message by his interpreter, Jacuba Aga, to announce in his name, that if the expedition to Akermann was to be undertaken soon, the Prussian envoy must put down immediately two hundred purses, or a hundred thousand piastres.

Golz replied without hesitation that he had full power to agree to this demand, with the understanding, however, that the Khan would immediately fulfil his promise. Golz now summoned the Armenian merchant whom he had engaged to perform the duties of courier as far as Constantinople, and provided him with a bill of exchange that he might obtain this sum from Regin.

The personal relations between Golz and Boskamp were in the meanwhile not of the most agreeable nature. Both were in fact alike invested with the character of envoys

from the King of Prussia, though Golz, from having been sent with a fresh and direct commission, had necessarily obtained an ascendancy in carrying on negotiations with the Khan.

This roused the jealousy of Boskamp, whose pride was easily wounded, and he frequently vented his irritability by playing malicious tricks. He was, moreover, at this time leading secretly a vicious and dissolute life, which he could not conceal from Golz, who lived in the same house; he was therefore anxious to be rid of a witness of his immoral conduct, who could make it known and injure his character with the King.

He had for some time tried to form an intrigue for the purpose of removing Golz from Bakschi-Serai, and by that means not only free himself from an observer of all his actions, but become the sole director of the negotiations.

To this end he had employed certain means of influence which he possessed in the palace, to excite, when an opportunity offered, a misgiving in the mind of the Khan on account

of Golz's long protracted stay at Bakschi-Serai.

It was remarked to the Khan that Golz had openly made his appearance at the capital in a too decided and prominent manner as a Prussian officer, and that he had by this means exposed the treaty between Prussia and the Crimea to the vigilant eyes of the Russian spies, which might render all their plans abortive. The Khan immediately saw the truth of these suggestions, and sent Jacuba the interpreter one morning to Golz, to inform him that he deemed it advisable that Golz should, in order to lull the already awakened suspicions of the Russians concerning the treaty under consideration, retire into Moldavia, a province dependent on the Crimea, and remain at Jassy until the Khan should have assembled his Tartars at Akermann. He promised that he would then invite him to the camp, and intrust to him the command of the troops as far as Silesia. He also transmitted to him the long-talked-of firman for the purchase and export of Tartar horses, that he might possess a document in proof

of the innocent character of his stay in the country.

Golz did not in the least suspect that this new turn of affairs had been brought about by Boskamp's agency; and he consulted him in the most friendly way as to whether he should obey the Khan's orders or not. Boskamp took pains to set before him, with the best possible arguments, the advantages of the position at Jassy for communicating with the Khan; to this there was but little to reply, and it would have been difficult to refuse compliance with wishes so decidedly expressed.

CHAPTER VIII.

A TARTAR GIRL.

Beautiful Tartar girl — Intrigues of Boskamp — Golz obtains an audience of leave, with a confirmation of the Khan's promises — Sets out for Jassy — Splendid scenery.

BOSKAMP had other cogent reasons for deciding that Golz should leave Bakschi-Serai as soon as possible.

He took the opportunity of telling him, with an air of particular confidence, that differences had arisen between himself and the Khan relative to the possession of a beautiful Tartar girl, which might prejudice the diplomatic negotiations if they were not entirely separated from his personal affairs, as would necessarily be the case if Golz went to Jassy.

Golz, who had begun to find his stay at Bakschi-Serai rather tedious, showed himself interested by the mention of the beautiful

Tartar ; and Boskamp, who with a smile remarked this, appeared willing to amuse him with the particulars of the adventure.

To give him a proof of his confidence, he even offered to let him see the lady gifted with such rare charms, who had, he said, been for some days concealed in the upper story of his house.

At these words, stepping out into the entrance-hall, he clapped his hands three times, and called out a few words in the Tartar language, whereupon immediately the light tread of a woman was heard above.

Soon, with an easy, graceful movement, a slender figure descended the steps ; and Golz beheld, to his great surprise, beauty which until now he had only found described in Eastern tales and poems.

The fair one wore a short close-fitting garment, confined round the hips by a gold and silver embroidered girdle, fastened by two large silver clasps ; wide trousers were confined at her well-turned ankles, and boots of yellow morocco covered her beautiful feet.

Her face, on which shone innocence, peace-

fulness, and artlessness, was, as well as her throat, of dazzling white; her eyes were dark and languishing; and her glossy black hair fell in thickly-plaited braids over her shoulders.

On the crown of her head was placed a little red cap, adorned with small Turkish silver coins, which heightened in a most agreeable manner the air of liveliness and coquetry with which this Tartar girl approached.

As soon as she perceived that she was not alone with Boskamp, but that she was observed by a stranger's eye, she turned quickly round, and with a faint cry ran up stairs again, not failing, however, to look round at Golz with a certain confiding air, giving him thereby a full view of her charming face. She then disappeared, while Boskamp laughed aloud at her hasty retreat.

Golz was by no means disinclined to follow up this interesting adventure, but Boskamp informed him, in answer to his inquiries, that this was the daughter of Arland the inter-

preter, who had himself brought her there the day before, and that he intended, on account of her beauty and amiability, to marry her. "But this is attended by a somewhat dangerous circumstance," said he, with his peculiar and malicious smile, "namely, the rivalry of the most honoured Khan, gifted with taste good as mine !

"Krim-Girai wishes to adorn his harem with my Seineb, of whose rare charms rumour has informed him, and he offers her the highest and most flattering position if she will allow herself to be transplanted into his harem. He has also made me every species of proposition to this effect, but I have roundly told him that I will yield my pretensions at no price. In the meanwhile I have brought the girl here for security ; for as we constitute a kind of acknowledged Prussian mission, his Tartaric Majesty must respect our residence, bad as it may look. He is furious, the old fox, with me ; but I will stand my ground, and Seineb's slippers shall never, with my consent, tread the Khan's seraglio. On this account I

hold it to be for the interest of our pending negotiations that they should for a time be conducted from another place, so that my personal affairs may not in any way prejudice the King's interests."

Though Golz thought this last speech somewhat assuming, as in the negotiations with which he was exclusively charged there had been little or nothing said of Boskamp, yet he decided to comply immediately with Krim-Girai's orders. He therefore that very day asked for an audience of leave, in which the Khan in the most gracious manner confirmed all his former promises.

Golz then made hasty preparations for his departure, and on a beautiful morning in the month of March, which already showed the bloom of spring on the mountains and in the valleys, set out for Jassy, by Perekop, Kinburn, Oczakow, and Bender. The surrounding country, which at the time of his arrival in the Crimea was struggling between winter and spring, was now in wondrous beauty.

The almond trees were already in blossom,

in the fields and gardens shone innumerable luxuriant and richly-coloured plants, and prodigious herds of cattle and droves of horses grazed with camels on the plains.

CHAPTER IX.

THE CZAR PETER III.

Golz arrives at Jassy — Death of the Empress Elizabeth Petrownna, and accession of Peter III. — Truce between Russia and Prussia — Golz receives fresh instructions — New complications — Golz raises a corps of Albanians.

THE youthful Gregor Ghika was at this time Prince of Moldavia, and Golz waited upon him as soon as he arrived at Jassy, to request his permission to make some stay in that place, on the plea of being ordered by his Sovereign to remain there for the better carrying on of the pending negotiations between the Porte and Prussia. After this business was settled in the most friendly manner, owing to the favour which at that time greeted the name of Frederick the Great in all parts of Europe, he set to work to make himself as comfortable as he could in the ill-built and gloomy capital

of Moldavia, in which he was destined to remain longer than he at first expected.

After Golz had spent some time in comparative idleness, he one day received an autograph despatch from his King, announcing, to his great astonishment, an event which changed at a blow the whole face of European affairs.

On the 5th of January, 1762, the Empress Elizabeth Petrowna, the King's bitterest enemy, had expired suddenly at St. Petersburg.

This event severed one of the strongest threads in the dark and destructive web which had been woven round the head of the King.

In her place a friend now reigned on the Imperial throne of Russia, one who had long been unable to reconcile with his respect for the Prussian hero and philosopher the war waged by Russia against Prussia.

This was the Czar Peter III., who had never taken part in the councils of state when measures were to be discussed inimical to him, to whom his thoughts had always turned

as to the model of what a king should be. After mounting the throne, he seemed to have no more important or pressing duty to perform than to offer to Prussia a peace based on the firmest friendship.

He had immediately caused overtures to be made to this effect at the King's headquarters at Breslau, through his favourite and confidant, Colonel Godowitz.

Rumour had already vaguely hinted at this change of rule in Russia, an event entailing far and wide the most important consequences; but Golz now saw confirmed by the sign manual of his Sovereign the great and entirely new combinations into which affairs had suddenly entered.

In this despatch he was informed that a truce had been entered into, and an order given in consequence for the withdrawal of the Czernezew corps from the Austrian army.

This intelligence was accompanied by instructions for Golz; an entirely new plan of conduct was chalked out, to be followed in his negotiations with the Khan; and he was

instructed to induce Krim-Girai to invade Hungary with his forces.

To these instructions was added the information that the Czar Peter III. had already assured the King that in case the Porte should be inclined to war with Austria, and would undertake an invasion of Hungary, Russia would observe the strictest neutrality.

Golz was desired, as soon as he had obtained a Tartar contingent from the Khan, to commence his march with great prudence through Poland, and to abstain from all violence towards Russia and Russian subjects: he was to lead this corps to Kaschau, where he would join the Werner corps, already under orders to proceed to that place.*

Thus the state of affairs was completely changed, and Golz would gladly have set to work immediately with energy and diligence to fulfil his new task.

* Gesandtschaftsreise des Lieutenants von der Golz nach dem Tatar-Khan, a. a. O. S. 122.

But as the negotiations with the court of Bakschi-Serai, by writing, were very slow, and retrograded almost in the same proportion as they advanced, the moment for action appeared extremely uncertain.

At the same time it became apparent that the French consul resident at Bakschi-Serai had hit upon the scent of the Prussian dealings with the Khan, and had given tidings of them to his government.

It occurred to Golz, who felt the want of a congenial occupation, to enlist several hundred Albanians, a warlike people, who in their constant rebellions against the Turks had been inured to war, and to form of them a corps, which might assist in the invasion of Hungary.

With the aid of an Albanian officer, who had served in the Hospodar's body-guard, he got together in a few weeks forty men, who, having received two ducats bounty, and a promise of the same pay monthly, swore fidelity to the King of Prussia. He then went to Salkutz in Bessarabia, to prepare for the campaign.

He shortly after received his Sovereign's approbation, with instructions to increase the number of Albanians for his Majesty's service.

CHAPTER X.

THE FOUR GUARANTEED POINTS.

Krim-Girai takes the field, and is joined by Golz — Audience of the Khan — Additional subsidies — Discussion of political questions avoided by the Khan — Forward movement of his camp — Decides on taking the road to Hungary.

AT last Golz heard that Krim-Girai had left his capital at the end of May with six thousand Tartars, and was ready for action : he thought, therefore, that the time was come for him to resume in person the conduct of affairs, and he immediately made his preparations for leaving Jassy, which he did on the 11th of June, proceeding by Kauschai and Schoberski to Czepezakly, on the frontier of New Servia.

This was pointed out to him as the spot where Krim-Girai thought of halting, and he arrived there at the same time as the Khan

himself, who for the present seemed to move forward by slow and measured marches.

Golz, at his first audience of the Khan, found him attended by Boskamp and the Prussian physician Dr. Frese, who had in the meanwhile been appointed camp and state physician, and been ordered to attend him on this journey.

The Khan was fully equipped, and wore all the insignia of a commander-in-chief, which heightened the beauty of his fine form ; but his countenance bore the same cunning expression which had before perplexed Golz, and rendered him suspicious.

Krim-Girai appeared on the whole more cheerful and happy than ever, and said to Golz, giving him his hand familiarly, " You find me quite a healthy man, thanks to my good brother of Prussia, who sent me the delightful Dr. Frese, whose pills have conquered the devil in my body in the most agreeable manner possible. Would that I could overcome all the King's enemies as easily with my sharp Tartar sword ! It will not please me to see you so quickly recon-

ciled with the Russians, and to be forced to fight the Austrians, who are a fine, generous, brave nation, and whose Sovereign never did me any harm. The Russians are not to be trusted, even with the best sounding and most solemn promises in their mouths, and your country and people will yet have to repent that Krim-Girai was restrained when he was ready to strike a blow at his hereditary enemy, and was for ever prevented from sowing the seeds for the destruction of Russia.

“ However, I love your King, to whom I am indebted for my health, so dearly, that if he agrees to the fulfilment of my new conditions, I will cheerfully make the sacrifice, and march against the good Austrians. I will, as I have promised, enter Hungary with fifty thousand men, and I will besides send eight thousand to the King in Silesia ; but I must be sure that he will fulfil the conditions which I have made, and I hope that I see you prepared to execute them.”

Golz was not in a condition to take this

responsibility on himself, but he assured the Khan that the King's answer would come in a day or two, and that, according to the communications already received, he did not doubt that His Majesty would assent to the proposals.

“ You are determined to have it in black and white,” said the Khan, an air of studied reserve spreading over his countenance. “ We Tartars, children of nature, have no need of writing down our promises, for our very religion commands us to keep them with good faith ; they are, therefore, secure on the mere word of a believer. Ibn Chaldun, the great and wise Arabian politician, who may well be compared to your Montesquieu, says, ‘ The word of a believer concludes peace and makes war according as he speaks, for the power of everything created lives in the pure word of a believer, from which states arise, and cities and nations flourish, as the tree grows up from its roots.’ But with you everything grows up from writing, therefore among you no one believes another ; for writing is patient, and bears lies without blushing, but the word halts

when it is sullied by the breath of a lie. You, therefore, need not doubt my word ; but I must take counsel day and night, and test your writings by the light both of the sun and moon."

The Khan seemed on this occasion to take pleasure in being somewhat sententious, and Golz thought himself called upon to acquiesce cheerfully in what he said.

The next day the courier arrived with the King's despatch, written in Latin, concerning the four points which Krim-Girai had at the last negotiation desired to see settled.

They consisted of the formal declaration of neutrality on the part of Russia during the war with Austria ; of the promise that the Russian fortresses on the Tartar frontier should be destroyed, and, as a pledge of this, the recall within their own limits of the Russian Cossacks who had entered the Tartar kingdom ; and, lastly, of the important condition that the Khan should receive from the King of Prussia before the commencement of hostilities four hundred and fifty purses, in ad-

dition to the two hundred which the King had already paid.*

The Prussian courier also brought intelligence that Prince Dashkow, the Russian ambassador at the Porte, had received orders to proceed to the Khan's camp to declare the neutrality of Russia, and to discuss more fully the remaining points.

The two representatives of Prussia received at the same time through the courier secret orders to agree to pay the four hundred and fifty purses, but not actually to pay them down before they should arrive on the Hungarian frontier.

On the receipt of the guarantees Krim-Girai remained impenetrably silent. He amused himself part of the day with the chase in the neighbouring mountains, and spent the remainder of his time in his tent, which joined that of the Prussian envoys.

In the evenings his band performed, and Golz and Boskamp were invited to these con-

* *Gesandtschaftsreise des Lieutenants von Golz nach dem Tatar-Khan*, a. a. O. S. 124.

certs; but in his conversations with them Krim-Girai made not the slightest allusion to any point connected with the state of affairs, speaking to them only of music, the arts, and philosophy, which last he repeatedly said was his hobby.

He made Golz tell him about the operas and plays which Frederick caused to be performed at his court, listening with the greatest attention, and making notes of anything remarkable in a large memorandum-book, carried by a servant behind him.

One morning, however, he sent for Golz and Boskamp, and drily informed them that he was by no means satisfied with the guarantees which he had received from Frederick the Great. He had on a former occasion told them that he always examined with the greatest distrust the writings of the Western nations, since they were a substitute for the spoken word; he had meditated on the so-named guarantees all night, and perceived that they were thin and fragile as smooth ice, through which it was easy to fall over the ears into deep water, and be lost. He

then added morosely that it must not be forgotten that he was a dependant of the Porte, and that, although he had sent his chief councillor, Abdullah Effendi, to Constantinople to fathom the Sultan's wishes, he could undertake no war without his permission; meanwhile he could not engage in any further negotiations with Frederick, and that therefore the Prussian envoys would no longer be received in their diplomatic capacity, but simply as worthy guests whom he should be happy to see at his concerts, and with whom he would with pleasure converse on art and science, carefully avoiding all political questions.

The negotiations thus appeared to be once more broken off; but a few days afterwards Krim-Girai expressed himself to the Prussian envoys in a manner which seemed again to imply his readiness for war, and he alluded especially to the four hundred and fifty purses, the chinking of which he was anxious to hear as soon as possible.

They informed the King of Prussia of the state of affairs in a detailed statement, to be

delivered to His Majesty by Dr. Frese, who started on the 27th June, the Khan being perfectly restored to health.

The Khan now moved his camp forwards, and on the 1st July he encamped in the province of Aksu, on the river Boug, where he appeared to wish to remain some time; the uncertainty of his intention, however, was shown by his suddenly seeking for information concerning the roads leading into Hungary, and by his inviting Golz and Boskamp to assist at a conference on this subject.

The Khan, much to his own delight, showed his geographical and strategical knowledge, and they decided at last for the road along the Ukraine frontier down the Dniester by Bender and Kohanka.

At this time Major Von Samogy, by birth a Hungarian, but in the Prussian service, whom Frederick the Great had sent by the express wish of the Khan to have near him a trusty officer acquainted with the state of Hungary, arrived in the camp.

There were thus three Prussian envoys

present, who united all their arts and persuasions to induce the Khan to set his military force in motion, and to remove immediately farther from the Russian frontiers, where a strong body of daring Cossacks were watching him.

CHAPTER XI.

CAMP AT KAWSCHANY.

Change of opinion at Constantinople — Influence of the French ambassador — Krim-Girai quarrels with Boskamp — Seineb taken from Boskamp by the Khan's orders — Boskamp commanded to quit the Khan's territory — Departure of the Prussian envoys — End of the mission.

KRIM-GIRAI'S march was so fortunately conducted that as early as the 29th of July he, with his column, entered Kawschany, a town situated on the Botna, four miles from Bender, where he had a castle, built a short time before by his order, in which he now established his head-quarters.

This palace, furnished with extravagant magnificence and beauty, he entered in state, and again remained for some time invisible to the King of Prussia's representatives.

They had taken up their residence in the town, and were obliged to confine their activity to keeping a sharp look-out on all that passed around them.

For some days it had been evident that something extraordinary was going on in the palace, in which Krim-Girai had shut himself up.

Abdullah Effendi, who till now had lingered at Constantinople, returned with news which seemed to exercise an irresistible influence on the continually-changing plans of the Khan.

By means of the spies whom Boskamp had in the palace they learned that there had been a complete change of opinion at Constantinople, which threatened to set aside the proposed alliance between Prussia and the Porte, and for the time to render nugatory every warlike undertaking based thereon.

This change had been brought about by the influence of the French ambassador at Constantinople, who, having been long ac-

quainted with the military convention spoken of between Prussia and the Porte, had taken an opportunity to gain a decided influence over the effeminate, dreamy Sultan, Mustapha III.

The first favourite of the Grand Signior had allowed himself to be bought over, with an immense sum, and had had the audacity, on the very day which had been named for the ratification of the Turco-Prussian treaty, to throw himself at his sovereign's feet, with tears in his eyes, beseeching him to abstain from an alliance with Prussia, and thereby to keep clear of complications which could only lead to the greatest dangers for Turkey, and bring the country into a costly and fruitless war.

Although the Grand Vizier Hamid Hassan Pacha, and the Mufti Bekir Effendi Sade Ahmed, who had both continually spoken in favour of the treaty with Prussia, now urged it with increased warmth, and used all their influence in favour of an alliance, the Sultan seemed suddenly determined against it; he

returned to his favourite pursuits, and occupied himself with literature and the superintendence of the buildings which were in progress, without listening to any further proposals for war. This intelligence had the most remarkable effect on the wavering and excitable mind of Krim-Girai.

At this time another circumstance roused the anger of the Khan against Boskamp, and led him to adopt a more severe line of conduct towards him.

Krim-Girai was in the habit of taking walks at night alone, sometimes in disguise. As he passed one evening through a street of Kawschany his attention was attracted by loud laughter and the noise of mirth, and he stopped before the house from which the sounds issued. Soon was heard the sweet voice of a woman, singing, with the most touching and charming expression, a Tartar song to the sound of the guitar, and Krim-Girai, who was ready for every kind of adventure, could not refrain from climbing on the balcony of the house and

taking a peep through the half covered windows.

What he saw sufficed to inflame his anger beyond all bounds, and he with difficulty restrained it from immediately bursting forth.

He discovered that he was standing before Boskamp's house, and perceived, to his great indignation, that Boskamp had allowed the charming daughter of Arland, the interpreter, about whom there had for some months been serious misunderstandings between him and Krim-Girai, to join him in the camp at Kaw-schany, contrary to the express agreement under which the dispute as to the possession of Seineb had been adjusted. The Khan had declared himself ready to give up all claim to the beautiful Seineb for his harem on the condition that Boskamp would cease the attempt to appropriate her, by which he caused open scandal, and violated the customs of the country.

This compromise, which appeared no easy one to the Khan, Boskamp had evidently

infringed, inasmuch as he had bound the attractive fair one to himself with such strong ties, that she had followed him even to the distant camp.

The scene which Krim-Girai with rising anger beheld was certainly not calculated to enable him to maintain the appearance of indifference to Seineb's charms which he had from reason and policy assumed.

The beautiful Tartar appeared more lovely than ever in the joyous company in which she now was with her Prussian friend. She wore a black and red embroidered shawl, wound picturesquely round her glossy, thickly-braided hair, which gave her an irresistible air of coquetry, considerably heightened by a tight-fitting dress, showing to advantage her beautiful figure; and her neck and bosom were adorned by costly jewels, which threw around her a blaze of light.

She was singing and dancing to the sound of the guitar, and displayed such bewitching grace and archness, that at last Krim-Girai, unable to contain his feelings, sprang down

from the balcony, giving utterance to them in loud imprecations.

He hurried from the spot, swearing that he would speedily be revenged.

On his way home, he vented his rage on some Tartar soldiers, whom he found asleep on their post, with long pipes in their mouths, close to their dromedaries.

He roused some of these animals by striking them with the flat blade of his sword, so that they suddenly rose with a great noise, throwing the soldiers who lay asleep at their sides to a considerable distance.

A fearful laugh from Krim-Girai, usual with him in moments of great excitement, followed this disturbance; he then vanished in the darkness, and took the road back to the Castle.

No sooner had he arrived there than he ordered Mustapha Aga, who, even in the camp, possessed his exclusive confidence in certain matters, to proceed with a sedan-chair and a party of soldiers to Boskamp's house, and to bring back Arland the Inter-

preter's daughter, if necessary by force, and conduct her instantly to the harem.

The Khan charged him at the same time to command the Prussian envoys, to whom he intended to give audience, to attend at the palace early the next morning for that purpose.

The next day accordingly Golz, Boskamp, and Samogy appeared at the palace at the appointed hour, and were received by the Khan with a clouded brow and stern expression of countenance which augured no good for them.

Boskamp thought it advisable to take the initiative, and requested permission to lay before him a complaint to the effect that, while in all civilized countries the residence of an ambassador was held sacred, his dwelling had been violated by the forcible entry of a body of soldiers. The insult to him was the greater, inasmuch as a person who was dear to him, and to whom he possessed an incontestable claim, had been carried off.

Krim-Girai heard him at first in silence,

but with an annihilating look which indicated the severity of the resolution he was about to adopt.

After a long and anxious pause he said, "It is an error if you, gentlemen, still consider yourselves accredited agents of my good brother the King of Prussia. I have already told you, a long time ago, that I can only look upon you as my guests.

"My policy, gentlemen, as to the war, is different from yours ; and, moreover, the wind blows so French at Constantinople, that I should endanger myself and my people if I made war against the expressed orders of the Sultan. But as my guests, I have treated you with all honour, trusting that you would do nothing contrary to the customs of the country and the respect due to my person.

"One of you, however, to whom by a nod of my head I will show my disapprobation, has by his conduct insulted me, and gone so far as to break his word, which he had solemnly pledged.

"I order him on this account to leave Kawschany this day—nay, this hour—nay, this very minute—and never to set foot again in my territory, on pain of losing his head."

The Khan accompanied these words by a motion with his hand so threatening, and so full of contempt for Boskamp, that the latter gave up all idea of resistance.

Krim-Girai, without taking further notice of Boskamp, turned with much friendliness to the others, and entreated them not to allow this occurrence to deter them from a longer stay at his Court.

Golz declared, however, that a longer stay was impossible, as in a despatch of the day before the King's direct command had reached him to set out immediately on his journey homeward.

When the Khan heard this, the kind-heartedness which was the real foundation of his character predominated in its full extent.

Giving his hand to Golz and Samogy, he declared that he should part from them with

the greatest sorrow, and that the only thought which could console him was, that through them the assurance of his admiration and friendship for their great monarch would be expressed in the very best manner.

He begged Golz to accept two Circassian horses, with bridles and harness, which were to be immediately brought round.

He added that the travellers would be escorted to the Polish frontier.

Golz felt himself indeed much moved by this farewell, in which the Khan showed cordial and genuine feeling.

Early the next day the three Prussian envoys started; they were to travel together by Jassy to Czernakutz, and there Boskamp was to wait until further orders from the King. On the 15th December, 1762, Golz and Samogy arrived at Leipzig, where the King was sojourning, and gave his Majesty an account of their adventures.

Thus ended this remarkable mission to the Khan of the Crimea, by means of which Frederick the Great hoped to bring about

such a diversion in the East as would lead to a settlement of the affairs of Europe by reducing, according to his first proposal, the power of Russia, or, according to his second, that of Austria.

PART II.

WAR WITH RUSSIA.



CHAPTER I.

THE VIEWS OF SULTAN MUSTAPHA CONCERNING POLAND.

Intrigues at Constantinople against Krim-Girai — Deprived of his dignity — Raises the country for his protection — Leaves the palace — New complications at the Turkish capital — Death of Augustus III., King of Poland, and election of Poniatowski — Civil war in that country — Russian invasion — Boskamp sent by Poniatowski to Constantinople — The Sultan prepares for war.

SOME years after the events related in the last chapter, Krim-Girai, the heroic Khan of the Crimea, became the victim of diplomatic intrigue.

It had never been forgotten at the Court of Constantinople that Krim-Girai had been borne to the Tartar throne on the waves of a revolution, and an opportunity had continually been watched for to get rid of a man who was obnoxious, for many reasons, and who was especially distrusted on account of his free and independent spirit.

An unsuccessful war waged by him against the Circassians at last afforded a pretext; the Porte suddenly omitted to send him the 50,000 piastres granted annually for the support of the military establishment in the Crimea, and Krim-Girai, who saw through their intentions, again raised the whole country, and more especially the rebelliously inclined tribe of the Noghais, for his protection.

Every year the Grand Signior sent by a special messenger, with the customary gifts, a firman confirming the Khan in his functions.

In the year 1764, however, the firman arrived without the sword and marten fur, without the heron's plume, and without the agreeable gift of a few thousand sequins.

It was easy to understand that the firman this time did not confirm the Khan in his dignity, but rather deprived him of it.

Remarkable and unexpected was Krim-Girai's conduct on this occasion.

If on the third day after the arrival of the Grand Signior's messenger without the usual

presents the Khan made no preparation for his departure, he thereby declared himself to be in rebellion. Krim-Girai had prepared everything for open hostilities, and the Noghais, always ready for war, had come down from the mountain fastnesses into the town as soon as the report reached them that the imperial messenger had arrived without the usual gifts from the Grand Signior. He was nevertheless seen on the third day, accompanied by a few of his trusty followers, bidding a silent farewell to the gigantic palace of the Khans, previously to going into exile in Roumelia—in which province lay the ancestral estate of the Girais, whither khans, when they fell into disgrace, were in the habit of retiring.

In the meanwhile new complications had arisen at Constantinople, which rendered more probable the war between Russia and the Porte, so long withstood by the Sultan Mustapha.

The election of the King of Poland, which always spread the sparks of discord far and wide, had, on the death of Augustus III.,

caused a fresh conflict between the entangled interests of Russia, Prussia, Austria, and France, and thus a flame had been kindled which would not permit the Porte to remain longer in dreamy repose.

The Sultan's council had come to the upright and sagacious decision that the freedom of Poland ought to be upheld and defended from the interference of any foreign court.

The election of Poniatowski, the highly-gifted and amiable favourite of the Empress Catherine, had nevertheless taken place under the protection of Russian arms, and her policy working with that of Prussia, and supported by that of England and Denmark, made the interests of the dissenters a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of Poland.

The national and Catholic elements began at the same time to make head against Poniatowski, who was striving to obtain full and perfect equality for the dissenters. Powerful confederacies assembled in all parts of the country, and raised a civil war against the newly-erected throne. But Russia ordered

her troops to march across the frontiers of Poland, and advance to Warsaw.

The Polish patriots, as the insurgents of the national party styled themselves, now thought it necessary to seek aid from the Porte, and drew up a memorial, to be delivered by Stan-kiewicz, the Polish resident at Constantinople, together with one from the Crown Field Marshal Branik.

It was therein earnestly insisted upon that Poland, deprived of her independence, might fall into the power of Russia, and that thus new dangers might be created for Turkey.

The Porte, worked upon by various diplomatic influences, wavered for some time before coming to a decision on the subject.

M. de Boskamp, who had entered the Polish service, and had recently arrived at Constantinople with the formal declaration of the King's election, found there more room than he expected for the display of his activity as an agent of Poniatowski, and a tool of Russia.

But Boskamp did not obtain his real wish, which was, to become the regular Polish

minister at the Porte ; for the remembrance of his conduct in the Crimea, where he had, as Prussian consul and agent of Frederick the Great, tried to excite Krim-Girai to arbitrary measures, was strongly against him at Constantinople.

Determined as the Sultan's council appeared to be to evade open war against Russia, causes were at work which were more powerful than all diplomatic reserve, and of more avail than all Turkish statesmanship.

Popular superstition, no one knew why, held that a war with Russia was imminent, and this had been prophesied in the year 1767, at the great fire of Pera, when the Russian embassy was destroyed by the flames.

The idea that war with Russia was inevitable had taken deep root in the Sultan's mind, and had become so firmly implanted there, that it haunted him continually ; he dreamed of it by night, and it formed the constant subject of his conversation by day.

One of his principal confidants at this time was a German named Ghobis, who had been appointed court physician ; to this man he

first imparted the design of making war on Russia, which was fermenting within him.

One day when Ghobis was in attendance on a favourite sultana, who had had an epileptic fit, the Sultan seated himself at her bedside and entered into a long conversation with him on the state of political affairs. He said that there was nothing in the world that he hated like Russia, and that his hatred of this power, which grudged free breathing to every other nation, no longer allowed him to sleep in peace. The thought of Poland brought tears into his eyes, and made his sword impatient to leap from its scabbard. He would long ago have declared war against Russia, on account of her invasion of Poland and Georgia, contrary to treaties, if the Ulemas, corrupted by the Russians, had not made such obstinate resistance; he trusted, however, that he should soon have broken their power, when he would be sure of coming to an understanding with Austria, which stood aloof from an alliance with Russia; he would then answer the cry of Poland for assistance, and send forth his whole force against the Czar.

Dr. Ghobis, who was in secret communication with the Austrian internuncio, M. de Brogniard, immediately imparted to him this astonishing intelligence, having first questioned Mustapha the dwarf, the Sultan's prime favourite, as to his Sovereign's intentions, and obtained from him a full confirmation of their warlike nature.

The Sultan had ordered some hundred imperial tents to be prepared, nominally for the fêtes which were to take place on the occasion of the circumcision of the Prince Selim; but as Dr. Ghobis learned in the Seraglio that this ceremony was not to take place immediately, he came to the conclusion that the order for the tents betokened preparations for war.

CHAPTER II.

DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST RUSSIA BY THE
PORTE.

Complicated diplomatic relations — Dismissal of the Grand Vizier, and appointment of Hamsa Pacha — Obreskoff, the Russian ambassador, insulted — The Porte declares war — Obreskoff sent to the Seven Towers.

THE diplomatic relations with Russia soon became more complicated, and a game of questions and answers began, in which the Porte raised new difficulties with respect to the entry of the Russians into Poland, and Obreskoff, the Russian Resident at Constantinople, sometimes pretended that he knew nothing about the matter, and sometimes declared that this measure neither had, nor could have, any other object than to protect freedom and religious liberty in the case of dissenters.

The Russian and Prussian diplomatists in this affair united in acting a comedy, in which the parts were admirably distributed, in order to repress and turn into ridicule the Sultan's honest endeavour to assist Poland, and avert the arm of Russia stretched out to grasp it.

The noble-minded Sultan, however, continued to take the matter more and more to heart, and his vexation was increased by deeds of violence and other acts which could only be attributed to Russian contrivances and intrigues; such were the insurrection of the Moldavians, which was excited by Russian monks, and of the Montenegrins, who were openly instigated by Russian agents. The Sultan at last made up his mind to remove the only remaining obstacle to a declaration of war.

For this end it was necessary to get rid of the Grand Vizier, Muhsinsade: accordingly, on the day of Rikiab, when the ministers pay their respects at the Sultan's stirrup, he was suddenly dismissed.

This Grand Vizier, who had at the last council been on the side of the Ulemas, who

were opposed to the war, was now obliged to retire into banishment at Tenedos, accompanied by a chamberlain, whom he could not look at without a trembling expectation of approaching death, as this was the officer who had escorted the late Grand Vizier, Bahir Mustapha, to Mitylene, and had brought back his head.

Hamsa Pacha, a man of enterprising and determined character, was now named Grand Vizier: he had twenty-five years before, at the age of fifteen, entered the Seraglio as a confectioner's boy; he next became a page, and had since succeeded in rising rapidly from one post of honour to another.

A grand council was held on the 4th of October, 1768, at which war with Russia was declared to be legitimate; the acts of violence perpetrated by Russia against Turkey were given as one motive for this decision, but the state to which Poland was reduced by the entry of the Russian troops into her territory was assigned as the principal ground.

A last attempt, however, to change the determination of Russia was to be made by

the new Grand Vizier in an interview with the Russian ambassador.

Obreskoff, who had for some time past desired to have a private audience, was now invited to a public one, to be held in the grand saloon of the Divan before the whole body of ministers.

The Russian ambassador put on his splendid gala uniform, as he intended to take this opportunity of congratulating the new Vizier, whom he had not yet seen since his appointment.

To his surprise he was allowed to wait for half an hour in the strangers' room, and was then introduced into the throne room with a total absence of state or ceremony.

His astonishment increased when he found that the Grand Vizier, instead of coming forward to welcome him, did not even rise from the sofa on which he was reclining in an attitude that appeared to be intentionally disrespectful.*

This insulting behaviour for a moment

* Hammer, 'Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches,' viii. 314.

deprived the ambassador of his composure, but he thought it best to leave it unnoticed, and calmly began the address which he had prepared.

He had scarcely begun when the Grand Vizier indignantly interrupted him, and gave him to understand that there had been quite enough words and negotiations between Russia and the Porte.

The Vizier then drew a paper from his bosom, and showed it to Obreskoff; it was a document which the latter had signed four years before on behalf of his government, engaging that the whole of the Russian forces, with the exception of 7000 men, should be withdrawn from Poland. The Grand Vizier struck with his hand the place on which the number stood, and exclaimed with warmth that there were now 30,000 soldiers in Poland.

Obreskoff remarked with confusion that he could only acknowledge to 25,000. "So you acknowledge your faithlessness, do you?" cried the Vizier, with the most intense rage. "You admit that you are a traitor, a perjurer! Do

you not blush for the horrors which your soldiers have committed in a country which does not belong to them? How can you justify Russian troops having lately burnt down Balta, the property of the Khans of Tartary?"

The Russian ambassador stood in silent embarrassment.

The Vizier then laid before him the conditions decided upon in council, and called upon him to sign them in the name of his Government, declaring that if he refused to do so, war against Russia would be irrevocably decided upon by the Porte.

These conditions principally concerned the independence of Poland, and provided that Russia would never more interfere either in the election of the kings, or in the religious questions of that country; that she would withdraw her troops, and leave the independence and freedom of Poland on all points untouched.

Obreskoff declared that he could not take upon himself to agree to these conditions, not having received full powers to that effect.

Upon this the Grand Vizier rose from his seat, which he had hitherto retained in an unaltered position, and with a thundering voice exclaimed, "Then the Porte declares war against Russia!"

The ambassador answered calmly, that Russia had not sought this war, but that, as soon as it was announced to her, she would enter into it in earnest, and carry it through with energy.

Obreskoff was then re-conducted to the strangers' room, there to remain until the Vizier had informed the Sultan of what had passed, and had taken his pleasure.

He was kept waiting from eleven A.M. until three P.M.

The answer from the Seraglio was at last brought by the Provost Marshal, who, after informing M. de Obreskoff that he had now the charge of his person, dismissed the Janissaries who had previously attended him.

In a few minutes the interpreter of the Porte and the Master of the Ceremonies also appeared, and announced to the Russian ambassador the Sultan's command that he

should be placed in confinement in the Seven Towers.

Obreskoff replied that he had no alternative, and must yield to force; he only requested that he might have the company of a few persons of his suite, in compliance with which request a secretary, two interpreters, and seven servants were allowed to accompany him to the Seven Towers. His horses were sent back to Pera.*

* Hammer, 'Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches,' viii. 315.

CHAPTER III.

KRIM-GIRAI COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AGAINST THE
RUSSIANS.

Krim-Girai recalled from exile — Reascends the throne of the Crimea — Consulted by the Sultan, and named commander-in-chief — Baron de Tott — Plan of the campaign.

AT this important juncture, which called forth all the activity of the Sultan, his thoughts were turned for the second time towards a man whose influence, courage, and heroism could never be more serviceable to him than at this time, when he was making preparations for the long-desired war with Russia.

This man was Krim-Girai, the Tartar Khan, who had been dethroned four years before, whose very name even caused bitter vexation to the Russians, and who had during his whole life sworn hatred to Russia, and instilled the same sentiment into the hearts of his warlike Tartars as a sacred duty.

Eight days after the declaration of war, Krim-Girai received a most flattering recall from his exile, with instructions from the Sultan to reascend the throne of the Crimea, the last occupant of which, the poet Maksud-Girai, was forced to retire to his farm at Fundukli.

The Khan, who had in the solitude of his banishment employed himself in his favourite studies, hastened to re-enter the scenes of active life.

He repaired first to Constantinople, in obedience to the commands of the Grand Signior, who had desired his attendance there, that he might explain to him confidentially the mode in which the war was to be carried on, and consult with him on the first military undertakings.

The Sultan's messenger, who delivered to the arch enemy of Russia the sword and girdle, the quiver and the bow, the marten fur and heron's plume, and the beautiful horse, the insignia of his restored rank, presented to him at the same time a purse of forty thousand ducats, a gift which was espe-

cially calculated to put Krim-Girai in good humour.

When Krim-Girai arrived at the seraglio to make his formal entry, he saw displayed the heads of forty Montenegrins, which had just arrived, and were exhibited as trophies.

The first decision to which the Sultan and the Khan came was, that the latter, being named Commander-in-Chief, should undertake a powerful and destructive expedition against New Servia.

Krim-Girai declared with animation that there was no time to lose, and that the Sultan must allow him, instead of going to the Crimea to be formally reinstated in his dignity, to proceed with all haste to Bender, there to assemble the troops which were to enter the Russian province with fire and sword. He recommended that his own castle of Kawschany, in the immediate neighbourhood of Bender, in Bessarabia, should be made the centre of operations, to which place all available forces should be ordered to repair, and whence the whole army should be set in motion.

Krim-Girai, having quickly assembled a retinue suitable to his new dignity, started in all haste for Bessarabia.

On the road he was received with enthusiastic applause by the people, which proved how great was the general joy at his reappearance, and how wide-spread was the excitement produced by the declaration of war against Russia which he published in every direction.

The intelligence of Krim-Girai's return to favour caused great watchfulness among the foreign diplomatists, and the French ambassador was very active in endeavouring to obtain influence with the Khan, in order to fan the flame of war as much as possible.

With the same view the Baron de Tott, another French agent, was on the road to Constantinople. He had first proceeded to Bakschi-Serai, and having there learned that Krim-Girai had already started for Bessarabia, despatched messengers to him with his congratulations.

At the same time he asked the Khan's permission to advance to the Danube, there to

await his arrival, as he was most anxious to express the heartfelt good wishes of France for his cause.

Krim-Girai received the messenger in the most friendly manner, and sent him back with the assurance that he was perfectly convinced of Baron de Tott's sincerity, and added that he did not wish him to undertake a journey of mere ceremony, but he would be delighted to see him upon his arrival at Kawschany, for he fully appreciated the friendship of France. He was an admirer of the French nation, and no less an admirer of the French "cuisine," and he requested that the envoy's cook might be allowed to prepare a supper on the day of his arrival at the castle of Kawschany. He added that he did not wish to put the Baron to much trouble : but he had a great hankering for some fish, to which he was very partial, and which his own cooks were never able to prepare to his liking ; he would also be well pleased to have a good French sauce. The French nation understood so well the art of making sauce, that they would render any dish palatable.

The Commander-in-Chief, with his brilliant and numerous retinue, much augmented in number by the authorities of the towns and villages through which he had passed on his progress, arrived at length before the gates of Kawschany, where great preparations had been made for his reception.

The Khan dismounted from his horse, and entered a tent for the purpose of arranging his dress. In a short time he reappeared, wearing the Tartar cap, with the heron's plume fastened by two diamonds. Carrying the quiver and the bow, he then entered the castle-yard on foot with great ceremony.

Before him walked his body-guard, in full uniform, and then were led his favourite horses, each bearing a plume of heron's feathers.

Immediately behind the Khan was borne the Standard of the Prophet, and this was followed by the household in gala uniforms, stiff with gold and silver.*

As soon as Krim-Girai had entered the

* *Mémoires du Baron de Tott sur les Turcs et les Tartares.*

palace, he proceeded to the Hall of Audience, and seated himself on the throne, in order to receive the homage of the nobles who had crowded round him on this important occasion. This ceremony, diversified by a few speeches, lasted till the hour fixed for supper, which had hardly arrived when the Khan cut short all further formalities.

On the table were now seen the brilliant results of the emulation which had been excited by the Khan between the French and Tartar kitchens.

M. de Tott's cook had, it is true, received orders to prepare this important banquet; but Krim-Girai's cooks, stimulated by the threatened rivalry, had requested to be allowed to try to distinguish themselves also on this occasion.

There ensued in consequence a struggle in which both sides exerted themselves to the utmost, but the Khan hesitated not for a moment to declare that complete victory was on the side of the French.

Baron de Tott, who had presented himself at the gate of the town, and who had been

received with marked favour by Krim-Girai, sat by his side at table, and by his lively and agreeable conversation speedily obtained his favour.

During supper, however, the clever Frenchman could obtain but a share of the Khan's attention, the greater part of which was bestowed on the dishes which the French cook had set before him, among which a large fish from the Dniester, dressed in excellent wine, and a dish of vegetables were particularly agreeable to the Epicurean palate of the Khan, as he enthusiastically declared. But the triumph of art was decreed by Krim-Girai to be a wine-sauce, and he jestingly remarked that the secret of civilisation lay properly in sauce.

After supper, a new Turkish comedy, founded on a series of most comical adventures, was performed by the Khan's theatrical company, which always followed in his train.

The French diplomatist, who had so quickly gained his confidence, was ordered to sit by his side during the performance, and at every pause had to answer innumerable questions

from the Khan concerning French plays, more especially those of Molière, of which he had heard much.

What Tott told him about the rules of the drama as understood in France, appeared to impress him with a strong contempt for the still uncivilised Turkish performances. By his conversation he showed himself well acquainted not only with Molière's plays, but also with the manner in which they were represented : he appeared to have been particularly interested by the *Tartuffe*. He remarked that every country had its *Tartuffes*, and no doubt Tartary had hers also ; therefore it would be highly agreeable to him if M. de Tott would have that excellent comedy translated for him.*

The following day the preparations for war were carried on : from every side came pouring in envoys, officers of state, and courtiers, and the castle of Kawschany was filled to over-

* Tott made known the Khan's wish to have a Turkish translation of Molière's '*Tartuffe*,' and Ruffin, secretary and interpreter to Louis XV., was charged to translate it, but no translation was made. (*Mémoires du Baron de Tott*, ii. 116.)

flowing with these persons, part of whom, however, were soon despatched in different directions as messengers, to execute the Khan's commands.

The Polish Confederation also sent an envoy to explain their wishes as to the campaign, which being destined to take place in Servia, might possibly affect the Polish Ukraine, and it therefore seemed desirable to come to some determination in that respect; but as the Polish envoy had not powers to that extent, and the time pressed, Tott received from the Khan, as a proof of the extraordinary confidence with which he regarded him, a commission to go to Kotchim, in order to make an arrangement in his name with the Chiefs of the Polish Confederation, who had removed to that city upon the declaration of war.

Tott fulfilled this mission to the perfect satisfaction of the Khan, who asked him on his return, if he might reckon on having his company during the ensuing campaign.

Tott replied that his position deprived him of the merit of choice, for as he had the

honour to be accredited to him by the King of France, it would be his duty not to leave him.

Krim-Girai received this declaration of his new favourite with the most lively satisfaction, and said, "Well, this title, on account of which you remain with me, imposes on me the duty of taking care of you, and bringing you safe back. It will be very cold during the campaign, and I shiver when I see your light French dress : you must dress like a Tartar, my friend, and that we must arrange quickly, for time presses, and in eight days at farthest the departure of our troops will take place. We shall then put a powerful column in motion. You will go with me at the head of a hundred thousand men into New Servia. Two other armies of forty thousand and sixty thousand men will march at the same time, one to the Lesser Don, the other to the left bank of the Borysthenes by way of Orel. That will be a good beginning, will it not, to show the Russians that their old enemy Krim-Girai is still alive and vigorous ?"

At this moment the master of the ceremonies entered, as previously ordered by the Khan, accompanied by two pages, who carried a costly dress of white Lapland wolf's fur, trimmed with grey miniver.

The Khan ordered that this dress should be put on the Baron in his presence, and when it was done, he clapped his hands with delight, and called out, laughing, "See, now, that is a Tartar dress which I give you to live in, and in which you must make yourself very comfortable. I have one just like it, and in this uniform, which I wish that we should both wear, we shall be good companions. We will now have some more Tartar clothes got ready for you, and in addition to that, I will send you ten Circassian horses and three dromedaries for your own use, for you must not take your beautiful Arabians, which I admire so much, on our perilous campaign."

CHAPTER IV.

THE MARCH INTO NEW SERVIA.

Forced march to the Polish frontier — Hypochondriac melancholy of the Khan — Philosophical discussions with the Baron de Tott — Krim-Girai reviews his troops — Encamps unwittingly on the frozen surface of a lake — Suicide of Turkish soldiers — Plan of the campaign — Turkish cavalry lost under the ice — Courageous feats of an Ignaz Cossack.

ALL this time, while Krim-Girai, with his usual gay humour, seemed to treat the whole business lightly, he was in reality, although almost imperceptibly, accomplishing with unexampled rapidity the enormous preparations which he had undertaken. On the 7th January, 1769, attended by his guards and a considerable number of sultans who had taken service under him, by his ministers and chief officers, and many mirzas who accompanied him as volunteers, he started in order to cross the Dnieper. At certain appointed places on

the road, he was joined by various reinforcements who were to serve under the banners of the Khan.

Then began a harassing forced march, rendered difficult and fatiguing by the snow-drifts which covered the ground, though it was in some measure facilitated by the state of the rivers, which they were able to cross on the ice.

In the city of Balta, on the Polish frontier, which had experienced the first shock of hostilities on the part of Russia, the Khan was joined by ten thousand Spahis, who had been ordered by the Porte to accompany the Tartars during the campaign, and had come to meet him at this point.

This was the first annoyance which he met with on his march. He found these Turkish troops ill disciplined, and much weakened by effeminacy and long peace; and moreover dressed in a manner so ill adapted to enable them to support cold and hardships, that he felt unable to reckon on their efficiency in the hour of battle.

Besides all this, they had not only laid

waste Balta, where they had been a few days, but at the period of Krim-Girai's arrival they were burning the neighbouring villages, which they had already plundered.

The cold increased to a fearful degree as the Khan marched towards the Boug, but he crossed with the whole of his troops and *matériel* of war over its icy surface, and encamped on the Zaporowisch Steppes.

Till this period the Khan had generally, during the march, been in his usual good spirits and merry humour; but now a hypochondriac melancholy, which affected him in a peculiar manner, frequently took possession of him, and he then contemplated the future with the most gloomy forebodings.

The lively conversation of Tott, who never dared to leave him at such times, seemed to be the only means of diverting his melancholy, and restoring him to a happier frame of mind. From his natural inclination for philosophical and metaphysical discussions, which he conducted with much acuteness, he found pleasure in the conversation of the ingenious and clever Frenchman.

In the midst of the wild uproar of the camp he would suddenly begin to discuss general questions, such as freedom, honour, law-making, the principles of government, and, above all, his favourite theme, the influence of climate on character and manners.

The tent of Baron de Tott was always pitched close to that of the Khan, which, lined with crimson, and furnished with the most luxurious cushioned seats, was large enough to accommodate a good many persons round the fire.

In general, however, the Khan was alone with Tott, who till midnight, and often still later, was obliged to remain with him, for Krim-Girai seldom slept more than three hours ; and frequently, when Tott had withdrawn, the Khan was seized with such a desire for further conversation that he was forced to return. They then sat opposite to each other wrapped in their furs, while two pages incessantly endeavoured to keep up a fire, the greatest force of which was scarcely enough to counteract the piercing cold.

During this time the Khan's army was

moving northwards without halting, as Krim-Girai was anxious to enter New Servia, in order to make his attack on the Russian frontier.

A rising ground which commanded a view of the surrounding plain gave the Khan the idea of reviewing all his army from that point. He therefore ordered a halt to be made, and ascended the hill with his suite, while the troops were drawn up in battle array on the plain at its base.

The dark dresses of the Tartars, which stood out in deep relief from the snow which formed the background, produced a striking contrast, and presented a scenic effect. The whole army had, as if of its own accord, drawn up in twenty nearly straight lines. The various corps of which it was composed proclaimed their tribe and the province from which they came by their fluttering standards. Each Sultan Seraskier, at the head of his division, surrounded by a small staff, formed a highly picturesque group. In the centre of the lines was a body of picked men in magnificent uniforms, whose appearance was at

once tasteful and military. Forty troops of cavalry, each composed of forty horsemen, were drawn up in two columns, in each of which four troopers rode close together, bearing standards of various colours. Close to these rode the Master of the Horse, and behind him were led horses and an open sledge. Behind these again was a larger body of horse, by which the Khan was usually attended. The Prophet's standard, solemnly borne by an Emir, was next seen fluttering in the breeze; and the Khan's own guard of Ignaz Cossacks closed the train.

After the review, with which Krim-Girai was well satisfied, he turned to the surrounding sultans and courtiers, and with a smile asked if they had found out who was the bravest man in the whole army. As no one replied, he exclaimed, "It is neither I nor you, nor any of my warriors armed to the teeth—it is Tott, who alone has dared to come to the wars without weapons, and who has not even a knife to defend himself from the Russians."

At these words he laughed, with the half-

merry, half-provoking manner characteristic of the strange mixture of kindness and irony in his disposition. He ordered the camp to be broken up, that the army might reach the Zaporowisch Steppes before nightfall. The march hitherto had often borne the appearance of a pleasant adventure, but the army was soon to become acquainted with the fearful realities towards which it was advancing.

The Khan, as most commanders do, confronted without hesitation, and in high spirits, the dangers which must necessarily attend this entrance into a totally unknown country.

One morning, upon striking their tents, it was discovered that they had unwittingly been pitched on the frozen surface of a lake, and that if they had remained there much longer, the ice, which was very far from being strong, would have given way, so that the whole army must have been engulfed. It was also discovered that among the tents were large holes which appeared to have been cut by the inhabitants of the neighbouring country for the purpose of drawing water,

and which had escaped observation in the fatigue and labour of the preceding evening. The discovery of the danger in which they had passed the night was made amid loud shouts of laughter from every one in the camp, from the Khan himself down to the lowest horse-boy.

Nor was this merriment disturbed by the appearance of some desperate Turkish soldiers, who, unable longer to bear the fatigues of this march, threw themselves into the holes in the ice to end their wretched existence. This took place under the eyes of the Khan, who watched them with the greatest composure, and desired that no force should be used to prevent them.

“Honour the independence of him who wishes to die,” said he, thoughtfully. “He who destroys himself best knows who can help him, and kings have no more control over him. Let us leave him the field which he seeks.”

He then ordered the tents to be struck, and amidst general mirth the march recommenced. The Tartar warriors sang war-songs, and the

whole army indulged in noise and merriment. The army pursued its course to the north-west, to reach the banks of the great river Ingul, which rises north-west of Elizabethgrad, and discharges itself into the Black Sea at Nicolaief.

The plan of the campaign was now for the first time settled. One-third of the army, under the command of several sultans and mirzas, was to set out immediately, to cross the river, and throw themselves into New Servia in different divisions. To this corps instructions were given to burn all the villages and hamlets, to destroy the barns and all the grain, to drive away all the inhabitants by force, and to carry off their flocks and moveable property.

This division of the army was ready by midnight to effect the passage of the Ingul. The cold had towards nightfall become considerably less severe, and there was now cause to fear a sudden thaw, no less dangerous than the intense cold.

Water beginning to appear above the

ice which covered the river, it became advisable that the whole army should cross without delay. The Tartar troops, who were accustomed to this mode of marching, accomplished the feat with the greatest ease. Keeping at a certain distance from each other, they moved along in a gentle and regular trot over the plains of ice, and arrived in safety on the other side.

But the Spahis could not follow their example. Overcome by fear, they moved forward in masses, with slow and heavy tread; and when the cracking of the ice under their feet increased their alarm, they frequently stood still, and were all near paying with death for their delay. One after the other disappeared among the fast-increasing cracks, and soon most of the Turkish horsemen were lost before the eyes of their companions.

On the farther bank of the river a halt was made, in order to give the exhausted troops time to recover themselves.

It was found that out of six thousand Turkish cavalry which had followed Krim-Girai,

but few had escaped this danger. Some of the surviving Spahis loudly bewailed the sad fate of their lost companions. Among them one was especially lamented, who, with a large sum of money which would have made the happiness of his surviving son, had met his fate in the Ingul.

Upon hearing this, one of the courageous Ignaz Cossacks, who are ready for any adventure, offered, for the reward of two sequins, to fish the purse out of the Ingul. The offer was gladly accepted, and the bold son of the Kuban undressed himself while the hole into which the unhappy man had fallen was pointed out to him.

He dived, and remained so long under water that his comrades began to be uneasy about him; but after some minutes he reappeared, holding in triumph the purse which he had rescued from the river. The friends of the deceased were encouraged by this success, and began to mourn over the beautiful silver-mounted pistols which were in the Spahi's girdle. The intrepid Ignaz Cossack

declared himself ready to undertake a second journey under water, without demanding an increase of remuneration. Soon he appeared again with both the pistols, received with a smile his two sequins, dressed himself, and ran quickly to rejoin his regiment.

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CHAPTER V.

ADVENTURES OF THE CAMPAIGN.

Tartar devastations — Sufferings of the Turkish troops — Conduct of Turks and Tartars to prisoners contrasted — Stratagem of the Khan — Cowardice of the Spahis, and bravery of the Ignaz Cossacks — Army reaches the Polish frontier — Severe punishment of a plunderer — Partition of booty.

WHILE the troops destined to desolate the Russian provinces pressed forward by forced marches, Krim-Girai followed with the remainder of his army by easy stages.

Traces of conflagration met his eye on every side, proclaiming how completely fire had devastated the whole province.

From among the flames, which were visible on the horizon, were wafted the cries and groans of a whole population, until the smoke arose in such dense masses that it shrouded the heaven and earth in an impenetrable

veil, and smothered the distant sounds of distress.

While Krim-Girai's troops were spreading destruction on every side, and enlisting fire in their behalf, cold was working with no less fatal results on his own ranks.

The frost had now become so intense that blood flowed from the men's noses, and the weight of the icicles, which were formed from their breath, hung from their beards, and caused them the most severe pain. The Turkish troops, which the Khan was more and more convinced were quite useless for a warlike undertaking, were so completely overcome by the severity of the weather, that many refused to proceed further, and large numbers were left behind, buried in the ice and snow.

Krim-Girai, who was much distressed at the sight of the whole country in flames, and whose melancholy impressions were increased thereby, felt every day more and more contempt for these Turks, and he let slip no opportunity of showing it.

One thing which particularly disgusted him

was their custom of cutting off the heads of the prisoners they made in skirmishes, and laying them at his feet as trophies with a certain arrogant and pompous expression of good wishes for his welfare.

This conduct contrasted strongly with the good-humoured, pleasant mode of conduct adopted by the Tartars in carrying off prisoners and booty, which sometimes produced very amusing scenes.

One man sufficed to carry off five or six prisoners of different ages, together with fifty or sixty sheep, and twenty oxen, in perfectly quiet and orderly array. The heads of the children were seen peeping out of a sack fastened to his saddle; a young girl sitting before him and her mother behind him on his horse, the father on one of the led horses, and the son on another; the sheep and cattle in advance, and the whole train proceeding in the most perfect order, under the sharp watch of the Tartar, who would immediately detect the slightest irregularity. To keep in order what was beginning to go wrong, to make his energetic commands

obeyed on all sides, to care for the comfort of the prisoners, to run, if necessary, on foot from one to the other, to console the cast down and to raise up the exhausted, and yet continually appear in the midst of the train as director, guardian,—all this was often the duty of a minute, and was performed with the rapidity of lightning and a great deal of picturesque grace.

The cold had again increased to a fearful degree, and Krim-Girai's army was reduced to such a state of suffering that it could hardly advance further. As they approached the strong fortress of St. Elizabeth, great apprehensions were felt that the exhausted army might be wholly destroyed by a night-sortie from the fortress. The Khan ordered a well-conceived stratagem to be executed to prevent this: it was to form a corps of three hundred men, who should proceed at sunset as if they, backed up by the whole army, intended to lay siege to the fort. This plan was so successfully executed that the garrison thought only of defence.

This surprise caused such confusion in St.

Elizabeth, that Krim-Girai's cavalry ventured to advance into the suburb, while the remainder of the army reposed and recovered from the fatigues of the last few days.

One day, as Krim-Girai and his army approached the frontier of the Polish Ukraine, the Khan ordered an assault on the village of Crasnikow, the inhabitants of which had joined several hundred soldiers in defending a redoubt, and had made a strong resistance.

The Khan, wishing to give the remaining Spahis an easy feat of arms, ordered them to assemble for the attack, but no sooner had they fired a few shots than they all ran away and hid in the neighbouring thickets.

At this moment a division of Ignaz Cossacks, who stood near the Khan, advanced and asked permission to attack. As soon as they had obtained it, they sprang from their horses with the rapidity of lightning, and rushed to the redoubts, which they took in a short time, having killed some forty or fifty men and made the rest prisoners,

with the loss of eight or ten of their own number.*

The Khan was about to ride into the village with Tott, and had broken out into fresh invectives against the unworthy conduct of the Turks, when he saw an emir running towards him, carrying a head in his hand.

“Do you see that rascal?” said he to Tott, furious with rage: “he wishes to spoil my appetite for supper; observe him attentively; see what a fright he is in! he hardly dares to carry the head he has cut off.”

The emir approached the Khan with an air of respect, and threw the head down at his feet, expressing his wish that all the Khan’s enemies might meet the same fate as this one, who had just breathed his last sigh.

Krim-Girai looked with piercing eyes at the head which was lying before him, and recognised the well-known countenance of one of his own Ignaz Cossacks. “Wretch!” said he, in a voice almost inarticulate from rage, “will you pretend that you killed this

* *Mémoires du Baron de Tott*, ii. 156.

man? Even dead he terrifies you; alive he would have torn you to pieces and eaten you. It is one of my Cossacks! I know him well! He fell at the assault. Some one who wished to help you to deceive me no doubt cut off his head for you, for I do not believe that you would have had courage to do it yourself."

The Turk, though evidently greatly terrified, tried to defend himself by all sorts of excuses; but the Khan had his arms examined, and neither his pistols, knife, nor sword bore the slightest trace of having performed a bloody deed. "Put this false hero to death!" cried the Khan, in ungovernable wrath.

An officer of the guard stood forth and gave the Turk a few light cuts with a whip, hoping to satisfy the Khan's anger, and thereby save the man's life.

But as it is in Turkey the privilege of emirs to have the turban removed with some show of respect when they are to be beaten, this Turk, proud even in the moment of danger of being an emir, protested against this assault on his person.

The fury of the Khan broke out anew : "Cut the wretch's green turban from his head with strokes of the whip until it falls from it in rags!" cried he in a terrible voice.

This cruel order, which none dared to disobey, was executed with so much exactness that the death of the man speedily ensued.*

The Khan then turned away with indifference, and, asking Tott to continue his ride, abruptly changed the subject of conversation, questioning him about the Pope and St. Peter, concerning whom and their influence on Christian nations he wished to obtain information. He continued to talk on such subjects long after the tents were pitched, and Tott was obliged to remain with him until midnight, giving him information respecting the nature and regulations of the Christian Church.

This was attended by greater inconvenience than ever, for the place on which they

* *Mémoires du Baron de Tott*, ii. 158.

had encamped this time offered very little shelter against frost and wind, and in consequence of the scarcity of food, the supply even in the Khan's tent was frugal and insufficient. When at last Tott received permission to retire, he found his two secretaries half starved by cold and hunger. Enveloped in fur, he had just thrown himself upon his bed, which consisted mainly of snow and ice, when one of the Khan's pages entered the tent and brought in a dish, carefully covered up. He announced that it was a present from the Khan, and, setting it down at the foot of the bed, he retired.

One of the secretaries, M. de Coutillier, who had suffered the most severely from cold and hunger, did not for a moment doubt that the dish contained something to eat, and besought his companion, who lay nearer to the dish than he did, to lift it up and examine it.

His companion, who was cold and sleepy, could hardly resolve to do so, but after a time, covering his head with his fur, he put out his arm mechanically towards the dish.

He laid hold of something hairy. Already

alarmed, he held it up to the light suspended in the centre of the tent, and offered to the hungry gaze of his companion a human head, with eyes glaring from the sockets.

Tott was roused by their terrified shrieks, and thought that he recognized the Cossack's head which had in the morning been the object of the Emir's deceit.

This discovery was no sooner made than the two secretaries, excited by terror, rushed from the tent, and, carrying the head between them, threw it as far as they could, loudly complaining of hunger, cold, and the Khan's bad jokes.

Krim-Girai and his army were now skirting the frontiers of Poland, and he bent his course towards the small towns of Sibilow and Bouky. The Tartars, who rambled about everywhere to plunder and burn, could not easily be taught to respect the frontier line of Poland, but the severe measures adopted by the Khan for the protection of Polish property soon led to the establishment of order.

He usually allowed the main body only of his army to encamp before the villages, and

the troops were forced to content themselves with the provisions which they carried with them. The Turks, who never could resist their inclination to set fire to all the houses they fell in with, and then plunder the owners, were most severely punished.

The army could now advance but slowly, for the great quantity of booty which it had accumulated was an impediment to its movements. The number of prisoners who had been carried away from New Servia for slaves was more than twenty thousand, and the flocks and herds were innumerable.

Krim-Girai made the troops march forward in seven columns, because he thought that he could thus keep a sharper look-out on their movements.

The march proceeded as fast as the pace of the flocks and herds would permit.

The Tartars, in their eagerness for booty, attempted in every way to elude the Khan's watchful eye, and profit by any opportunity for plundering and robbing. The dark colour of their clothes, however, stood out in too strong relief against the snow-clad back-

ground for it not to be easy for Krim-Girai to follow with his eye any suspicious movements of his men even at a considerable distance.

One day some Noghai Tartars had left their ranks with the intention of plundering a Polish village, which seemed particularly tempting to them, and near which they were endeavouring to hide themselves. The Khan, observing a small eminence on the skirt of a wood, from which he could survey the whole plain, rode up it, and discovered the marauders concealed behind the hedges.

He immediately ordered a halt, and sent a selictar and four soldiers with orders to search the village, and bring him any one they should catch plundering.

At the same time a gloomy shade, which always appeared when he had taken a cruel and irrevocable determination, came over his countenance.

The selictar, who had started in all haste, soon returned with a Tartar who had stolen a piece of linen and a few balls of cotton. Led before the Khan, the unhappy marauder ac-

knowledge his offence, and admitted that he deserved the full punishment of it, as he had nothing to allege in his defence. He did not even try to interest any one in his favour, or to obtain the Khan's mercy, but in calm composure awaited his sentence.

All eyes were fixed on the Khan, who, in a voice of thunder, cried, "Take him from his horse, and tie him to its tail. Then let him be dragged along till the breath is out of his body. A crier, who will accompany him, will proclaim to the army the cause of his punishment."

As soon as the Khan had done speaking, the Tartar, without uttering a sound, got off his horse, and calmly gave himself up to the soldiers who were to bind him. But it so happened that there was neither cord nor strap for that purpose.

While they were hastening to get some, Tott tried to speak a word to the Khan in favour of the unfortunate man.

Instead of giving him an answer, Krim-Girai, whose anger showed itself in the swelling of the veins of his forehead, ordered,

to save time, that a bowstring should be used.

He was told that the bowstring would be too short.

"Well, then," cried he, stamping with rage, "let the wretch put his head into the bow, and let him be dragged off."

The Tartar silently submitted to this order. A trooper mounted his horse, and the wretched man allowed himself to be dragged along the road without offering any resistance. But as he was unable to keep up with the trot of the horse, he fell to the ground, and thus freed his neck from the yoke which had confined him.

The Khan perceived this new difficulty, foaming with rage. He paused a moment, and bit his lip, then with a fearful laugh exclaimed, "Let the criminal put his head again through the bow, and hold it on with both his hands until he dies."

The Tartar now understood that he was to be his own executioner, and again gave a most astonishing proof of perfect submission to his Sovereign's commands.

Crossing his hands firmly on his breast, he held the bow, in which he had placed his head, and was again fastened to the horse's tail.

The horseman started at a full gallop, and the intelligence was soon brought that the Tartar, who had not, even in the moment of death, changed his posture, had been dashed to pieces against a rock.*

In the midst of such adventures as these they arrived at Brazlau, where the partition of the booty, which had accumulated to an enormous and inconvenient extent, was to be made.

Notwithstanding the cunning and laughable tricks of the Tartars, who did everything in their power to conceal various articles, the distribution was made with order and regularity under the superintendence of Krim-Girai himself.

In spite of the many impositions which they attempted to practise on him, the Khan reserved about two thousand slaves for his

* *Mémoires du Baron de Tott*, ii. 7.

own share; but as he did not care to keep them himself, he gave them away liberally to those who stood near him.

The Baron de Tott, who had for some time watched his liberality in silent amazement, ventured at last to remark that if he continued to act thus, he would soon have exhausted his supply.

The Khan was again this day in that half melancholy, half mirthful mood, which was peculiar to his character, and in which he had so frequently been during this campaign. "My dear friend Tott," replied he to the remark of the young Frenchman, "with advancing years the thirst for wealth diminishes; but you are still young, and know how to enjoy yourself, and it is on this account just that you should have your share of the booty. Far from your harem, you have come into this wild camp with me, and have borne me company in spite of wind and weather. Therefore I have selected for you six slaves, just such as I should have chosen for myself."

"I should find myself exceedingly embar-

passed by such a present," said Tott. "I know not what benefit I could derive from the gift, and I should be thrown into the greatest perplexity by it. For your slaves are Russians, and how could I reconcile it with my position to see myself all at once possessed of slaves who are subjects of a power with whom my Sovereign is still at peace? Diplomacy alone would forbid me to assume any right over them."

Krim-Girai looked at him laughing, and said, "Well, then, I will give you six young Georgians instead of the six Russians, and I hope your Western diplomacy, which, after all, is pedantry and hypocrisy, will raise no further difficulties, and leave you at full liberty to accept the gift of a friend."

"Not quite so, your Highness," said Tott, hesitatingly; "there yet remains an impediment of great force in the way—namely, my religion."

"That is a ticklish point indeed," said the Khan, with a cunning smile. "I will take care not to touch upon it. I begin

now to fear that the Baron de Tott must go without slaves. But how would it have been had I offered you, instead of six Russian or Georgian boys, six young Russian or Georgian girls? Would your religion or your diplomacy then show itself more yielding?"

"I will confess," said the French envoy, "that against such a temptation I should be ill armed; and it is possible that I should not have been so difficult, either in a religious or diplomatic point of view, if you had offered me six beautiful female slaves."

"See now how it is with your boasted Western principles," said the Khan. "I have got you now! You who are virtuous, honest, and honourable, sometimes from religious, sometimes from diplomatic motives, would find yourself quite the fashion if you were to take a whole host of female slaves to Paris with you, no matter whether Russians or Georgians, while it would be impolitic and irreligious to show yourself there as the owner of six Russian boys. But, my good

friend, know that I have my religious principles also ; and though I would willingly do you a pleasure, this same religion forbids my giving other than male slaves to a Christian, and at the same time enjoins me to keep the females for myself, that I may make proselytes of them."

"And the men," said Tott, inquiringly, "do they appear to you to be less worth the trouble of converting? You must allow me to believe that it is only that the girls please you more, and that you prefer keeping them for yourself."

"Not at all," answered Krim-Girai; "in this I only obey the wisdom of the Prophet. A man remains even in slavery more or less an independent being, and his conversion will always be a species of miracle; but the conversion of a woman is the simplest and most natural thing in the world; a woman will always be of the religion of the man she loves, and she will follow love as the great missionary whom nothing can withstand."

He then broke off the conversation, and continued giving away the slaves, both male and female, until he had disposed of them all.*

* Mémoires du Baron de Tott, ii. 10.

CHAPTER VI.

THE RETURN.

Krim-Girai's grief at his own losses and the horrors of the war — Orders a retreat — Returns to Kawschany — Illness of the Khan — Tott suspects Siropolo, the physician — Tott's fears ridiculed by Krim-Girai.

KRIM-GIRAI was now rarely in those exuberantly high spirits which once formed the chief feature of his character. He became every day, in consequence of the continual horrors, devastations, and mishaps of the war, more silent, gloomy, and anxious.

One day, when the unparalleled cold had deprived him of three thousand men and thirty thousand horses, he covered his head, and uttered a loud cry of grief. It was the first time that he had displayed his feelings publicly. One hundred and fifty villages and hamlets had been destroyed in this campaign ;

and the air, already darkened by the vapour of the melting snow, became dense with the ashes that were borne in masses by the wind to the Polish frontier, ominous harbingers of the approach of the Tartars.*

At last Krim-Girai, acting under depression of spirits, ordered the retreat of his army, which was now considerably diminished in numbers; he returned to Bender, broken down in mind and body, and entered the castle of Kawschany, which had latterly become his favourite residence.

He intended to remain only a few days in the enjoyment of his accustomed mode of life, and then to take the field with his reinvigorated troops, and rejoin on the banks of the Danube the Turkish army, whose departure from Constantinople had already been announced to him.

The hypochondriacism from which he had suffered on the road, and which bent down his giant frame, now made rapid progress, and assumed an alarming appearance.

* Siestrzencewicz, *Histoire du Royaume de la Chersonèse Taurique*, p. 413.

He spoke one day very seriously concerning his condition, and the measures to be taken in consequence, to the French envoy, who enjoyed the influence of a friend, and who had given him much useful advice.

At this moment it was announced to Krim-Girai that a Greek who had formerly been recommended to him as a great physician, profoundly acquainted with the secret powers of nature, had arrived at Bender.

This man's name was Siropolo; he was a native of Corfu, and had been physician and political agent of the young Ghika Alexander, the deposed Prince of Wallachia; he appeared now to be much favoured by the influential persons of the court, who had at last persuaded Krim-Girai to entrust to him the restoration of his shattered frame.

Siropolo entered with a half-timid, half-obtrusive air, which gave Tott from the first a highly unfavourable opinion of him; approaching Krim-Girai, who was then suffering from a spasmodic attack, he offered him the service of his art, at the same time assuring him that a certain potion, by no means

unpleasant to the taste, which he would prepare, would radically cure him of all his complaints.

Krim-Girai declared himself ready to take the potion, and only requested that it might be prepared with all possible speed. The physician withdrew in order, as he said, to gather on the neighbouring mountains the necessary herbs.

The countenance of Baron de Tott bore an expression of grief and anxiety, which attracted the Khan's attention.

"How is this?" said he, with a returning smile on his countenance. "You are afraid: yes, I believe you almost tremble. Is it on my account?"

"Certainly," answered Tott. "You are about to entrust your health to a man whose position and antecedents cannot but excite suspicion. Forget not, Sir, that this Siropolo is in the service of that Prince of Wallachia whose deposition you made a condition on your re-ascending the throne of the Crimea."

"You suffer from hypochondriacs more than I do," said the Khan. "When Siropolo's

medicine has cured me, you shall drink some of it to chase away these fancies. Look at him again, and look at me, the Khan of the Tartars, and judge if the courage of a man like him can be trusted to do any harm to a Tartar Prince."

All further representations remained unnoticed.

Next morning the Greek re-appeared, and by a clever officiousness, which only increased Tott's distrust, contrived to strengthen the confidence which the Khan already placed in him.

The Khan received the medicine from his hand, and emptied the goblet at one draught. The effects of the medicine were extremely injurious and alarming; and the Khan fell into a state of weakness which increased hourly.

Siropolo declared that this was the health-restoring crisis, and answered for the success of his potion, appearing unusually gay and cheerful.

Tott, however, went in search of Krim-Girai's ministers, to recommend them to secure

Siropolo's person, and make him answerable with his life for that of the Khan ; but they showed so much indifference upon the subject, and the physician seemed so certain of success, that all his efforts were useless.

CHAPTER VII.

DEATH OF KRIM-GIRAI.

Increasing illness of the Khan — Sends for Tott — Grief of the harem — Krim-Girai's parting with Tott — Death of the Khan — Despair of the Court and Government — The funeral — Death of Seineb.

THE Khan's weakness now became so great, that he could no longer show himself in public, and was unable to leave the harem.

His friends and admirers lost all hope, and Tott especially was inconsolable at not being able to see and speak with him; at length he received a message, stating that the Khan desired his society, and he was in consequence conducted into the most secret recesses of the harem.

In the first chamber through which he passed he saw a number of beautiful and richly-dressed women, who appeared to be so

completely overwhelmed by grief and despair that they even forgot to take flight when he entered the apartment.

He was, on his side, unable to admire the bewitching beauty which they so unguardedly displayed.

The sincere and deep grief depicted in their countenances and attitudes alone attracted his attention at this moment.

A young Tartar in particular was conspicuous among them, as well on account of her dazzling beauty, as for the intensity of her grief. It was Seineb, the daughter of Arland the interpreter, who, after having been forcibly taken from Boskamp, the Prussian envoy, by Krim-Girai, had become not only "the light of the harem," but also his chief favourite, and had clung to the Khan with the greatest tenderness.

Her grief was so deep and violent that her condition caused anxiety to her companions, who surrounded her, uttering loud exclamations of sympathy and woe.

Tott was introduced into the apartment in which Krim-Girai lay in bed.

The Khan had just finished transacting business with his Divan Effendi; and pointing to the papers which lay on his bed, said, with a firm voice, to which he appeared designedly to give a fuller and more impressive tone, "See, this is my last work, and to you have I dedicated my last moments, for I love you." But as he observed that Tott was quite overcome by grief, and that the effort which he made to appear well and strong did not succeed in mitigating the sorrow of his French friend, he stretched out his hand in the most affectionate manner, and repeatedly pressed that of Tott. He then said, in a cheerful voice, "Let us part, my friend: your grief will unman me; and I must remain firm, and fall asleep courageously and cheerfully."

When Tott had saluted him and withdrawn, the Khan made a sign, whereupon six musicians who were stationed at the farther end of the apartment commenced playing music of an impressive character, which he had himself previously selected.

A placid expression spread over the fine features of the dying Khan as he listened to

the solemn tones. He bowed his head in measure with the music, and its charms seemed to alleviate the pain which he suffered.

His gay, happy, half-mocking, half good-humoured smile again returned, and his countenance assumed a calm and peaceful expression.

Half an hour after, he breathed out his noble spirit to the continued strains of the music.

As soon as his death was known, the palace of Kawschany was filled with terror and dismay.

A universal and inconsolable despair took possession of the Court and the Government.

In the meanwhile the Divan assembled, despatched couriers in all directions, gave orders for the interment of the late Khan with all ceremony, and lodged the chief authority *ad interim* in the hands of one of the sultans; but, to Tott's great indignation, they gave Siropolo his passport, and allowed him to return to Wallachia without any impediment.

When the corpse was embalmed, the effects

of poison were clear and indisputable ; but it did not appear to the Divan to be its interest to detect guilt or punish the criminal.*

The remains of the Khan were conveyed to the Crimea with the ceremony and pomp customary amongst the Tartars upon such occasions.

The coffin was placed in a coach hung with black, drawn by six horses with black caparisons.

Fifty men on horseback, a number of mirzas, and one sultan, who commanded the escort, all attired in the deepest mourning, accompanied the procession to Bakschi-Serai.

After the procession, at a short distance, followed a less magnificent coach, in which was conveyed the corpse of Seineb, whom tender affection and grief for her departed lord had carried off on the day of his decease. For her also a grave was prepared in the burial ground of the palace of Bakschi-Serai, close to those of other favourites of the Khan.

* *Mémoires du Baron de Tott*, ii. 201.

Thus died Krim-Girai, the last great Tartar Khan who governed the Tauric peninsula before its conquest by Catherine, Czarina of Russia.*

* According to some of the accounts of one of the most celebrated tombs in the cemetery of the palace at Bakschi-Serai, the beautiful Countess Marie Potocki reposes beneath it. She was united by the ties of love to the last Khan who reigned in the Crimea before it was seized by Russia (1783). According to other accounts, it is the tomb of the last favourite of Krim-Girai. Puschkin closes his poem on the "Thränen Quelle von Bakschi-Serai" with an allusion to this tomb, in which he follows the tradition which speaks of it as a memorial of Mary Potocki. It consists of an octangular building on a square pedestal, surmounted by a cupola. It is adorned with niches, columns, and a small portico, and produces an imposing effect. (*Revue de l'Orient*, v. 231.)

THE END.

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